



Media Contact:

Natonia Samchuck
717-885-0014 (Office)
610-763-4611 (Cell)
natonia@creategrit.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 31, 2017

CHI St. Joseph Children's Health Behavioral Health Center to Open Aug. 7

Lancaster nonprofit offers new family-focused approach to children's behavioral health and psychiatric care

Lancaster, Pa. – After an extensive physician search and the renovation of a new facility, the CHI St. Joseph Children's Health Behavioral Health Center will open to patients and families on Monday, Aug. 7, 2017 at 1929 Lincoln Highway East in East Lampeter Township. The new Behavioral Health Center will be led by a team of dedicated mental health professionals and will deliver a program focused on working with and supporting families to treat and prevent behavioral health and psychiatric challenges faced by children throughout the community of Lancaster.

"We began this journey in the fall of 2015, determined to change the course of child and adolescent behavioral health in the Lancaster Community," said Philip Goropoulos, president of CHI St. Joseph Children's Health. "Behavioral health is a great need in the community and both children and families are looking for forward-thinking treatment options."

The Behavioral Health Center's innovative, family-focused approach will incorporate family functioning as well as the health and well-being of parents and care-givers into the child's treatment strategy. Together, the team of providers, which includes a board-certified child and adolescent psychiatrist and a psychiatric nurse practitioner specializing in the care of children, will work with the child's family to make modifications and changes to their daily lives to improve the health and well-being of the child and of the entire family.

"The behaviors, attitudes, responses and emotions of children and adolescents are greatly influenced by the interplay between their environment and genetic factors," said Thomas Foley, MD, who along with Mary Jo Hanley, CRNP, will lead the Center's behavioral health team. "Traditional behavioral health treatment and care models often do not place enough emphasis on this relationship, which is what makes the CHI St. Joseph Children's Health approach unique."

“Foley and Hanley both bring extensive child and adolescent psychiatric experience to CHI St. Joseph Children’s Health,” adds Goropoulos. “Our behavioral health team, including therapists and family wellness counselors and case managers, will all work in partnership to support and care for children and their families.”

To further assist the community in areas of great need, CHI St. Joseph Children’s Health’s new Behavioral Health Center has already begun partnering with Lampeter-Strasburg, Penn Manor and Pequea Valley School districts to provide assessments and treatment strategies for children and families based on school referrals. Partnerships between the new Behavioral Health Center are expected to continue to grow.

“Behavioral health is essential in our community,” said Karen Staub, special services director at Lampeter-Strasburg school district. “We have many students and families who are in need of additional services that simply cannot be provided at the school level. Our partnership with CHI St. Joseph Children’s Health gives us another resource of trusted professionals who will provide long-term solutions benefiting our students and the overall health of our schools.”

The new Behavioral Health Center is located at 1929 Lincoln Highway East, Suite 150, in Lancaster. Behavioral health services will be available to children up to age 26. Although CHIP, Medicaid and private insurance will be accepted, the new Behavioral Health Center will provide mental and behavioral health services for children in Lancaster County regardless of insurance. In addition, a discount program based upon household income is available to uninsured families.

Families in need of service at the new Behavioral Health Center should call 844-837-9285 or 717-947-6535 for more information or visit www.chistjosephchildrenshealth.org.

About CHI St. Joseph Children’s Health

A part of Catholic Health Initiatives, CHI St. Joseph Children’s Health is a community-based organization dedicated to the health and well-being of children and families in the Lancaster Community. The organization works in collaboration with community partners to assure access to appropriate, quality health services and benefits for every child in the Lancaster community. This mission in children’s health includes multiple efforts, programs and services committed to improving the health of children and families throughout the Lancaster community. To learn more about CHI St. Joseph Children’s Health, visit www.CHIstjosephchildrenshealth.org.

###