



MEDIA RELEASE - June 17, 2016

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RACINE COUNTY and C2MH AWARDED MAJOR GRANT TO IMPROVE CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

\$200,000 Grant is Part of \$1.5 million over 8 Years

Racine – Racine County and the Racine Collaborative for Children's Mental Health (C2MH) announced today they have been selected by the Medical College of Wisconsin to receive a one-year, \$200,000 grant to continue the work to improve mental health outcomes for children across the Greater Racine area. The initial funding is part of an 8-year grant period, totaling approximately \$1.5 million.

The grant is awarded through the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin (AHW) Endowment at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). The AHW Endowment has announced funding for 10 Community Coalitions through its Healthier Wisconsin Partnership Program (HWPP) and its initiative focused on community-based behavioral health.

The initial grant will be used to establish an implementation plan to enhance C2MH's work providing school-based mental health clinics and children's mental health awareness training for teachers. The overall mission of C2MH is to educate, advocate and mobilize community leaders and professional resources to deliver quality, coordinated and comprehensive support services so that all children might lead healthy and vibrant lives.

"We are thrilled to receive this generous award that will allow us to enhance and expand the critical work we are doing to increase access to mental health services and improve overall health of children and families in Racine," said Jackie Hartley, manager for the Racine Collaborative for Children's Mental Health. "Community leaders involved with C2MH have made children's mental health a priority, focusing on improving care coordination, access to services and raising awareness about the importance of mental health to every child's healthy development. This grant allows us to expand upon this important work and continue to make an impact in the community."

CH2M was launched in 2011 when The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread convened a six-month research project to more fully explore the issue of children's mental health, which resulted in the report: *Top of Mind: Children's Mental Health in Racine – Highlighting Facts and Uncovering Urgent Needs*. This report identified four key challenges: poor system and service coordination; multiple barriers to access care; high service costs and limited funding; and workforce and service shortage. This analysis led to the formation of the Collaborative.

"Racine County is a very involved partner and supporter of increased access to children's mental health providers and is motivated to take a deeper look at the needs of this community," added Jonathan Delagrave, Racine County Executive. "Our goal is to make a positive difference in the lives of our children and their families, therefore creating a brighter future for the whole community."

"Racine Unified is proud to contribute to Racine County's effort to build awareness and improve access to mental health services. This funding will enhance the excellent work that C2MH and community partners are already doing - allowing us to impact and improve outcomes for more of our Racine youth," said Dr. Eric Gallien, Deputy Superintendent of Racine Unified School District.

"We are energized by the direction of our Endowment strategy and we're confident that these investments will lead to transformative accomplishments by our community partners," said Dean. Joseph E. Kerschner, MD, Dean of the School of Medicine and Executive Vice President of MCW.

Find out more about the Racine Collaborative for Children's Mental Health here:
<http://www.healthyracinekids.org>

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