



Pathways Community Health Selected for National Initiative to

Improve Healthcare for People Living with Both Mental Illness and Addiction

National Council's new 'co-occurring disorder' learning community will help streamline mental health and substance abuse healthcare delivery to improve patients' outcomes

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Pathways Community Health was one of the 10 community behavioral health organizations chosen by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare to participate in a new Co-Occurring Disorder Learning Community. The initiative will enable Pathways to provide more effective, integrated, and comprehensive care to people living with both mental health and substance use disorders.

Up to 75% of people struggling with addictions also have a mental illness, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Likewise, up to 50% of those with mental illnesses have a substance use problem.

“Such high prevalence of co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders points to the need for improved capacity to treat these individuals with multiple needs in a competent manner – not in the segmented manner all too common in American delivery systems,” said Linda Rosenberg, MSW, President and CEO of the National Council. “The Co-Occurring Disorder Learning Community will improve competency in integrated care and support leaders in the field.”

Over the next year and half, Pathways will work with national experts to:

- Improve the ability to treat individuals living with both mental health and substance use disorders by providing effective, integrated assessment and treatment.
- Implement plans to support a fully integrated co-occurring disorder service delivery model.

Linda Grgurich, President of Pathways Community Health sees this as a great opportunity to treat the whole person. “Integrated treatment allows for a greater opportunity for successful outcomes,” said Grgurich.

About Pathways

Compass Health is the parent company of Pathways Community Health and Royal Oaks Hospital. Together, the non-profit community behavioral healthcare center with 34 offices throughout 36 counties in Missouri and the 41-bed behavioral health hospital located in Windsor, MO, provide a full continuum of evidence-based behavioral health services for children, adolescents and adults. Services include comprehensive psychiatric treatment, addiction recovery, and crisis & prevention services. Pathways has been providing behavioral health services for over 30 years. For the Children Foundation, the primary funding-raising arm of Compass Health raises money for children who suffer with behavioral issues but have no way to pay for treatment. Funds raised by the Foundation help children receive needed services at Pathways and Royal Oaks.

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