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Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Awards Family Health Care Monetary Grant for Expansion and Improvement of Behavioral Health Services

BALDWIN, Michigan – Family Health Care (FHC) was recently awarded funding through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. HRSA's goal is to improve access to health care by strengthening the health care workforce, building health communities and achieving health equity. Much like HRSA, Family Health Care also has a mission to improve access to care within the communities FHC serves. This award will help assist in the expansion and availability of the behavioral health services within the communities Family Health Care serves.

The awarded grant will allow FHC to provide increased behavioral health services to a service area of more than 107,000 individuals. The four-county service area currently has virtually limited to no access to behavioral health providers, with only seven behavioral health providers in the region. The ratio of services in the four counties lingers at around 13,000 people to one provider.

"I am very pleased to accept these funds on behalf of Family Health Care. This grant will further integrate behavioral health specialties into our primary care services, and has the potential to improve the lives of those in our community," said Kathy Sather, president and CEO of Family Health Care. "A person's poor emotional state can have detrimental effects on their physical health, family life and overall well-being. Through counseling and a promotion of positive coping skills, our therapists are able to provide a pathway for positive lifestyle changes."

FHC will implement behavioral health services through a four element plan based on system transformation, universal health screenings, the hiring of two additional therapists to assist in providing these screenings, consultations and outpatient therapy, and two care management staff members for evaluation, strategic planning, skill-building and monitoring of patients.

"We are excited to implement these plans to better serve our community and see improvements in the overall lives and well-being of our patients," Sather said. "We look forward to working with other health care providers in the community to decrease the stigma around seeking out behavioral health services and working towards ensuring a greater amount of access to all health care needs."

About Family Health Care:

Family Health Care (FHC), is non-profit 501(c)(3) organization established in 1967, as one of the first community health centers in the U.S. to develop a "one-stop-multiple services" concept for health care services for all. FHC offers family practice, pediatric, internal medicine, dental, laboratory, x-ray, full service retail pharmacies, therapy, health education, and school-based programs. Centers are located in Baldwin, Cadillac, Grant, McBain and White Cloud. Our team is composed of diverse and passionate individuals who want to make a positive impact in the communities we serve. For more information, visit www.familyhealthcare.org.