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Lynchburg, VA – Horizon Behavioral Health (HBH) and OrthoVirginia are entering into an innovative partnership that aims to decrease the use of prescription opiates in Central Virginia. Of prescriptions taken for non-medical reasons, over 24% came from a physician, according to statistics from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

OrthoVirginia and HBH strive to take a proactive approach to this issue by assessing clients for risk factors associated with addiction and providing them with the tools they need to succeed and live healthy lives. OrthoVirginia Chief Administrative Officer Karen Simonton is enthusiastic about this partnership. “Our mission is to improve the musculoskeletal health and well-being of those who live in our communities. This robust partnership with Horizon will ensure we are doing everything possible to maintain the health of our patients.”

HBH will provide an educational group using the motivational enhancement therapy approach. These groups will strengthen motivation, educate on cessation strategies and build a plan for change for individuals referred to the group. Horizon CEO Damien Cabezas is confident that care systems will benefit by leveraging the expertise of behavioral health and physical health. “We will be tracking the outcomes of our efforts. We do not just want to place a bandage on this issue; we need a comprehensive medication management approach. The business case is better clinical outcomes, higher patient satisfaction, better provider engagement and affordable health care.”

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