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Horizon Behavioral Health Receives Federal Grant to Expand Lynchburg Drug Court

Lynchburg, VA – The Lynchburg Adult Drug Court program receives national attention with the recent announcement of a \$2.2 million federal grant provided by the Bureau of Justice Administration (BJA). The awarded funds will be used to build upon current recovery supports for individuals enrolled in the Lynchburg Adult Drug Court by bolstering staff training, hiring five interdisciplinary project staff, removing barriers to long-term recovery and the delivery of evidence-based treatment to participants, including Moral Reconciliation Therapy (MRT) and Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA). With expanded services and supports, the Adult Treatment Court will be able to enroll an additional 15 participants per year for the four-year duration of the project.

The overall goal of this project is to reduce participant substance use and recidivism through expanded treatment capabilities, peer support, stable recovery housing, employment and bus passes which combined present the greatest catalyst to successful long-term recovery.

At the root of this project lies the pursuit of continuous quality improvement through extensive evaluation of programmatic data and stakeholder perspectives. Co-Principal investigators of the project, Dr. Kelley and Dr. Volk of Liberty University explain, “Our goal is to make sure we are doing the best work that we can. The evaluation will be used to ensure the theory and model translate into real-world changes not only for the people directly impacted but their families and cascading social networks beyond that.”

Jennifer Smith-Ramey, Program Manager at Horizon, highlights a strong foundation of collaboration supporting the Lynchburg Drug Court that “connects all of our partners including the evaluators, the drug court team and the Horizon team among others. A unified passion and vision for providing our community with evidence based services is the ultimate goal.”

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Horizon Behavioral Health has been the primary public behavioral healthcare provider in the Region 2000 area for more than 50 years. In the last year, Horizon provided services to approximately 16,000 adults and children, addressing problems with mental health, substance use and intellectual disabilities. Horizon is accredited by CARF International. This represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to a behavioral health organization.