



CONGRESSMAN MATT CARTWRIGHT

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Rep. Cartwright Announces \$3.8 Million in Federal Funds for Mental Health & Substance Abuse

Wilkes Barre, PA – Today, U.S. Representative Matt Cartwright (PA-08) announced that Children’s Service Center of Wyoming Valley (CSC) received a \$3,811,484 million first-time grant award through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.

Currently, there are no Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic’s (CCBHC) serving Luzerne and Wyoming Counties in Northeastern Pennsylvania, where people have suffered emotional turmoil from economic hardship and intergenerational poverty for decades. This is reflected in regional statistics of diseases of despair, like addiction, overdose and suicidal ideations. CSC’s approved application and award grant will give them the ability to serve and make a positive impact on the lives of many children, teens and adults with serious cases of mental illness, emotional disturbance and substance use disorders.

“Mental health illnesses are often unseen and difficult to understand. That’s why we need to ensure resources for our kids’ mental health and well-being are as accessible as possible,” **said Rep. Cartwright**. “I’m gratified to have been able to help Children’s Service Center become a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic and secure this federal award. This funding will provide support for kids and their families so they do not have to deal with mental health struggles alone.”

“The Children’s Service Center is proud to receive this grant and we will spend the next several months organizing under CCBHC criteria. This two year grant allows us the

time necessary to become a fully certified CCBHC or, as it is known in PA, an Integrated Community Wellness Center (ICWC). We have several of the programs required to become a CCBHC already in place; several have been running for decades. We also have established relationships that will serve us well in this process. I believe in CSC's readiness to implement this model of care and improve on the integrated care available to those we serve in Northeastern and North Central PA," **said Mike Hopkins, President and CEO of the Children's Service Center.**

"CSC currently offers a model of care that includes behavioral health, primary care, pharmaceutical and soon we will be adding a lab; all in an effort to offer one stop, integrated care for our clients. We are excited by the opportunity and challenge of adding over 60 new staff to the 475 existing staff working every day to improve the overall health and well-being of those we serve and we thank Congressman Matt Cartwright and Senator Bob Casey for their interest in and tremendous support of our effort," **Hopkins continued.**

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Congressman Matt Cartwright is a member of House Democratic Leadership as a co-chair of the House Democratic Policy and Communications Committee (DPCC). He is a member of the House Committee on Appropriations, where he serves as Chair of the Commerce-Justice-Science Subcommittee, Vice Chair of the Financial Services & General Government Subcommittee, and a member of the Interior & Environment Subcommittee. Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District includes Lackawanna, Wayne, and Pike Counties and portions of Luzerne and Monroe Counties.

Children's Service Center of Wyoming Valley (CSC) is a 159-year-old integrated behavioral health organization based in Wilkes-Barre and serving more than 10,000 children, adolescents, and adults residing in Luzerne and Wyoming County. CSC offers a variety of services across a continuum of care from least restrictive community-based programs to residential treatment. In addition to offering 25 distinct programs, CSC, with its affiliate, Robinson Counseling Center, which specializes in adult treatment, offer on-site primary medical care; pharmacy services; and 24/7 access to assessment, crisis, and referral services staffed by psychiatric professionals. Together, they are a one-stop integrated system of medical, psychiatric, and pharmaceutical care and meet the individualized needs of the region's low-income population.

Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) allow participating states to test new strategies for delivering and reimbursing ambulatory behavioral health (BH) services. CCBHCs provide a comprehensive range of services directly or through referral to designated collaborating organizations. CCBHCs are expected to provide coordinated care using designated evidence-based practices (EBPs). Clinics must serve all clinic users, not just Medicaid beneficiaries, and cannot refuse services due to an individual's place of residence or ability to pay.

The CCBHC's are awarded funds through the Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). Congress created CMHS to bring new hope to adults who have serious mental illness and children with emotional disorders. It is housed within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHA), which is part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.