



New approach brings enhanced community mental health care

FSGC, Valeo achieve CCBHC certification

Northeast Kansans will reap significant benefits as two local community mental health centers will embark on a new way of providing services.

Family Service & Guidance Center and Valeo Behavioral Health Care have both been provisionally approved as Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) by the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, effective July 1.

“The CCBHC model is considered the national gold standard of care in the behavioral health field,” said Kathy Mosher, CEO of Family Service & Guidance Center. “The goal is to provide even better outcomes, better access and better quality of care for anyone who needs services.”

As CCBHCs, Valeo and FSGC will increase their collaboration in order to meet the needs of area residents. They will add staff members to increase access and build capacity. Finally, the organizations will also provide whole-person care as part of a seamless continuum of outpatient, home- and community-based behavioral health care for people of all ages.

FSGC and Valeo provide access to a comprehensive array of mental health services and substance use treatment in their respective locations. As usual, they get people into services quickly and serve them regardless of their ability to pay or place of residence. The CCBHC model will expand the level of support for individuals the organizations care for and allow for mental health care to be integrated with their chosen primary care physician. Finally, CCBHCs meet high standards for the services they provide.

Other beneficial features of CCBHCs include:

- Expanded crisis services, including mobile crisis teams.
- Care coordination to help people and families navigate the physical health care, mental health care, addiction treatment and social service systems.
- Enhanced levels of peer-to-peer and family support.
- Increased outreach efforts to underserved groups, including older people, African-Americans and the Hispanic population, and elimination of service barriers.

Valeo Behavioral Health Care CEO Bill Persinger reassured the community that no services for either organization are going away. In fact, becoming CCBHCs means that they will grow and expand.

“Valeo and FSGC will continue with our decades-old missions and traditional services as Community Mental Health Centers without disruption,” Persinger said. “CCBHC is a special status that gives us the opportunity to build upon our long-standing services for the benefit of the whole person.”

Founded in 1904, Family Service & Guidance Center is a nonprofit community mental health center that serves nearly 4,300 children, teens and families with direct clinical services and an additional 5,300 with outreach and education annually. FSGC provides a full range of mental health programs and services to treat anxiety, depression, ADHD, substance use disorders and other common mental health challenges.

For more information on Family Service & Guidance Center's services, contact Pam Evans, Director of Marketing & Development, at 785.232.7902 or pevans@fsgctopeka.com.

Valeo Behavioral Health Care has been providing mental health and substance use recovery services for over 55 years to 6,000 unduplicated adults each year. If you or a loved one are struggling with mental health or substance use challenges, professional help is available. Valeo's Crisis Center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for walk-in mental health emergencies. It is located at 400 S.W. Oakley Avenue. You can also call the Valeo Crisis Line, available 24 hours a day, at 785.234.3300. To learn more about Valeo Behavioral Health Care, contact Aimee Copp-Hasty at 785.342.7232 or acopphasty@valeotopeka.org.