



NEWS RELEASE

ProMedica Contact:	Harbor Contact:
Tedra White	Jean Drees
419-469-3864 (office)	419-720-6139 (office)
419-262-0371 (cell)	419-262-9292 (cell)

HARBOR AND PROMEDICA TO PARTNER TO MEET GROWING COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS

More than 35 percent of adults in Ohio report their mental health status as poor

TOLEDO, Ohio, Oct. 1, 2014 – ProMedica and Harbor have announced plans to form a joint operating company (JOC) to address a growing community need for mental health services in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. The JOC will help increase access to much needed behavioral health services and enhance care through a more integrated, coordinated model.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, mental illness is a “serious and growing problem” that affects about a quarter of American adults. In Lucas County, nearly 30 percent of adults have a mental health disorder. More than 35 percent of adults in Ohio report their mental health status as poor.

ProMedica offers comprehensive behavioral health services with a key focus on inpatient intensive care. Harbor offers significant expertise in a wide range of outpatient mental health programs and services. In July, Harbor and Behavioral Connections of Wood County, Inc., merged. Together, the two agencies have 23 locations and more than 650 employees in Lucas, Wood and Defiance counties providing treatment for mental health and substance abuse.

ProMedica and Harbor already collaborate in behavioral pediatrics and autism at Children’s Safe Harbor on the campus of ProMedica Toledo Children’s Hospital and the Great Lakes Collaborative for Autism.

“This is a natural evolution of our relationship and we see a tremendous opportunity to build on existing synergies and strengths,” said Lee Hammerling, MD, chief physician executive and chief medical officer, ProMedica. “Now area patients will have access to a full spectrum of high-quality, convenient and coordinated behavioral healthcare services.”

Harbor and ProMedica will focus on clinical integration where appropriate to respond to healthcare reform by implementing standard care protocols, guidelines and best practices around the management of behavioral health disorders.

There will also be increased effort regarding wellness, prevention, and education aimed at reducing the stigma of a behavioral health diagnosis and empowerment of patients through awareness and outreach.

“The most exciting and beneficial part of the agreement is how much it will benefit our clients and their families,” said John Sheehan, Harbor’s CEO. “The affiliation will make us stronger. We will have more staff resources, and we will have additional program and service opportunities for our patients.”

In addition, there will be a focus on increased recruitment of behavioral health specialists to the region. Research shows a severe shortage of psychiatrists and behavioral health providers in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan.

ProMedica and Harbor will explore new and innovative ways to treat children and adults. One example is the use of Telehealth technology to expand care to patients in rural communities.

The JOC will have a six-member board that will include representatives from both ProMedica and Harbor. The Harbor name will remain and it will operate as an affiliate of ProMedica.

For more information about behavioral health services at ProMedica and Harbor, visit www.promedica.org/mentalhealth and www.harbor.org.

About Harbor

Harbor is a behavioral health provider in northwest Ohio and encompasses a broad range of services including counseling, psychiatric services, developmental and behavioral pediatric care coordination, adult day services for individuals with developmental disabilities, vocational programs for those with barriers to employment, wellness education, and employee assistance programs. Harbor was voted a top workplace in the Toledo area in 2014 and is also celebrating its 100th anniversary this year.

About ProMedica

Toledo, Ohio-based ProMedica is a mission-based, not-for-profit healthcare organization formed in 1986. ProMedica has more than 15,000 employees and nearly 1,900 physicians with more than 600 healthcare providers employed by ProMedica Physicians. Its 12 hospitals and more than 300 facilities offer comprehensive diagnostic, medical and surgical specialties in heart and vascular, oncology, orthopaedics, neurology, and women and pediatric services. ProMedica’s mission is to improve health and well-being, with a strong focus on wellness and clinical excellence, as well as innovative, community advocacy programs that address health-related issues such as hunger and obesity. For more information, please visit www.promedica.org.

Tedra J. White, MA

Director of Public Relations

Office: 419-469-3864

On-call media representative: 419-262-0371



