CHR: Addressing the Opioid Use Crisis with Enhanced Services, Convenient Locations and Greater Understanding of Options

In response to Connecticut's unprecedented opioid use crisis, CHR – the state's most comprehensive, non-profit behavioral healthcare provider – expanded its range of treatments for the community. Our work has been bolstered by generous support from the state Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) and the state Department of Correction (DOC). We are enormously grateful for their support and share their commitment to ending this heart-breaking crisis with effective, proven treatments. To date, CHR's response to the opioid use crisis includes:

MORE Medication Assisted Treatments (MATs): Recognized as the gold standard treatment for opioid use disorders, CHR is one of a handful of agencies in Connecticut that offers ALL options for MAT: methadone, suboxone and vivitrol. This gives people a choice that best meets their needs.

COMPLETE Care: At CHR, MAT is always offered as part of a comprehensive treatment plan that also includes, as needed, therapy, intensive outpatient care, case management, and recovery/peer support, including 24/7 access to services. In Enfield and Willimantic, DMHAS grant-funding supports recovery coaches for the MAT teams.

CONVENIENT Locations: CHR offers MAT in Enfield, Manchester, Putnam and Willimantic. This spring, MAT will be added to CHR's outpatient sites in Bloomfield, Danielson and at Charter Oak Health Center in Hartford, where CHR coordinates all substance use services. We also coordinate MAT services for individuals living in CHR's residential treatment programs for substance use disorders.

INNOVATIVE Approaches: In select locations, CHR now offers complementary therapies such as ear acupuncture to help reduce cravings and enhance well-being and animal assisted therapy to help rebuild confidence and trust.

NEW Services for Young Adults: CHR is one of six sites across Connecticut to offer MAT with suboxone to young adults, ages 16 to 21, with opiate addictions who are part of an evidence-based treatment model known as Multidimensional Family Therapy. Funding is provided by the state Department of Children and Families (DCF) through a federal SAMHSA grant.

LIFELINE for People Reentering Communities: Recognizing that a significant number of overdose deaths occur every year among adults reentering Connecticut communities from prison, CHR is working with the DOC to start treatments and MAT before people complete their sentences and coordinate continued care upon reentry.

For all individuals seeking treatment at CHR, care is provided in a respectful, compassionate environment. We offer convenient hours and locations and strongly encourage the involvement of families and close friends so individuals are supported throughout their journey toward recovery. **To learn more, call 1-877-884-3571**.



