



PRESS RELEASE

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LifeSpring Asks Floyd County Commissioners and Council to Not Cut Funding

Proposed changes would cut services to Floyd County residents

JEFFERSONVILLE, IN—LifeSpring Health Systems, the state designated community mental health center serving six southern Indiana counties, asked the Floyd County Commissioners and the Floyd County Council not to approve changes proposed by Interim Auditor Scott Clark that would eliminate approximately \$30,000 in funding to LifeSpring. LifeSpring became aware of the proposed changes after a concerned citizen brought the issue to their attention late last week.

Dr. Terry L. Stawar, President/CEO, stated, “This loss cannot be absorbed by our organization and will necessitate a reduction of services provided in Floyd County for up to approximately 100 Floyd County residents. We understand these are tough budget times, and difficult decisions must be made. We are confident the Commissioners and Council members will continue to invest in the good work we have been doing in our community for over fifty years.”

Beth Keeney, LifeSpring’s vice president of development stated, “Mental illness and substance use disorders are very common. Recent estimates by the National Institutes on Mental Health report that almost 1 in 5 Americans experience some form of mental illness. The cost of not treating these mental illnesses cannot be understated. When we fail to treat mental illness, those experiencing them often end up in our emergency

rooms or jails. They may be unable to care for their families or work. Every penny counts.”

LifeSpring has recently expanded services in Floyd County to better meet the needs of the community. Our Floyd County office doubled outpatient capacity and began serving more Floyd County residents in August. LifeSpring has also expanded our outreach to the Floyd County community.

During the past year:

- LifeSpring provided 60,541 services to 1,361 Floyd County residents.
- Of those served, we estimate less than 2% are “full fee,” meaning they pay what it actually costs to provide the service.
- Of those served, 55 were served in our medically supervised detoxification indigent care program. This provides substance abuse detoxification and residential services to individuals who are unable to pay for it or who do not have benefits/insurances to cover the costs.
- The detoxification and residential services program per diem rate (what it actually costs us) for this service is \$350 per day, and the program lasts 35 days. Over the last year:
- We trained 60 Floyd County professionals in Mental Health First Aid, an 8 hour curriculum for residents to learn how to address a mental health crisis, at no cost to attendees.
- We trained 12 Floyd County professionals in Introduction to Opiate Abuse, a 3 hour seminar led by local law enforcement, treatment and medical staff on how to recognize and address Opiate abuse (including Heroin), at no cost to attendees.
- We participated in more than 30 community events in Floyd County.
- We added care managers to the Floyd County staff to permit greater focus on addressing the activities of daily living with clients.
- We partnered in several community initiatives and collaborations designed to meet the needs of Floyd County residents.
- We worked with criminal justice professionals to develop two different programs and sought (and were awarded) funds to pay for those programs.

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LifeSpring Health Systems is the state designated community mental health center in Clark, Floyd, Harrison, Jefferson, Scott and Washington counties. LifeSpring serves more than 7,000 clients annually by providing a comprehensive spectrum of behavioral healthcare services. To learn more, visit LifeSpring’s website at www.lifespringhealthsystems.org or follow us on social media.