



Noll Medical Pavilion **NEWS RELEASE**

For Further Information, Please Contact:

Mark Schmidt

The Hope Institute

mschmidt@thehopeinstitute.us

217-588-7660

Cindy Kiriakos

MHCCI

Kiriakos.cindy@mhsil.com

217-588-7775

Nancy Zimmers

SIU-SOM

nzimmers@siumed.edu

217-545-2155

Noll Medical Pavilion Receives Grants to Further Development of a Patient-Centered Medical Home for Children with Disabilities

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SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS – Officials at Springfield’s Noll Medical Pavilion today announced the receipt of two grants that will further the development of a patient-centered “medical home” for children with developmental disabilities, mental illnesses and autism spectrum disorders.

The first grant, totaling \$50,000, was awarded to the Mental Health Centers of Central Illinois, a Memorial Health System affiliate, and its partners by the Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation. The goal of the grant is two-fold. First, it will assist in establishing a patient-centered “medical home” at Noll Medical Pavilion. Second, the grant will spur efforts to integrate behavioral health assessment and services within primary care clinics operated by Southern Illinois University School of Medicine.

The basic premise of the “medical home” model is that care which is managed and coordinated by a personal physician, using the right tools and preserving consumer choice, will lead to better outcomes. Key components in the model include a personal relationship with a primary care physician and a team approach in which a multi-disciplinary health care team, working on behalf of the patient, provides a system of care that is both comprehensive and coordinated. Better outcomes include expanded access to care, added value with a high level of quality and safety.

Partners with MHCCI in the grant are Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and The Hope Institute for Children and Families.

Jan Gambach, President of the Mental Health Centers of Central Illinois, said that the grant places the Noll partners at the forefront of health care reform in the United States. “Time and time again, the concept of a ‘medical home’ is finding its way into discussions on health care reform at the state and federal levels,” she said. “Thanks to the Illinois Children’s Healthcare Foundation, we have the ability to move this idea from concept to reality in a way that will directly benefit thousands of children with disabilities in Central Illinois.”

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Dr. Janet Albers, Director of the SIU Center for Family Medicine, and Dr. Stephen Soltys, Chair, Department of Psychiatry, both at SIU School of Medicine, welcomed both the grant, and the new approach. “Integrating behavioral health assessments into the primary care setting can help physicians identify and treat behavioral health issues before they reach a crisis stage,” Dr. Soltys said. “The result should be better, timelier and appropriate care, at a lower overall cost to the system,” said Dr. Albers.

The second grant, for \$20,000, was awarded to The Hope Institute for Children and Families, owner of the Noll Medical Pavilion complex, by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. The purpose of the grant is to continue to expand access to comprehensive, coordinated health care for children with developmental disabilities.

“We are proud to support Noll Medical Pavilion,” said Clarita Santos, spokesperson for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois. “Our mission is to promote the health and wellness of our members and our communities through accessible, cost effective, quality health care. By supporting organizations like Noll, we are able to reach out to the people most in need.”

Dr. Joseph E. Nyre, President and CEO of The Hope Institute, credited the unique partnership created at Noll Medical Pavilion for success in achieving the grant funding. Dr. Nyre said: “The Children’s Healthcare Partnership at Noll Medical Pavilion is building new bridges and improving access to care for more than 7,000 children and their families each year. When fully developed, we view this model as one which can be replicated throughout our state and across the nation.”

Brian Allen, Vice President of Healthcare Partnerships for The Hope Institute for Children and Families, will direct the implementation of the medical home concept at Noll Medical Pavilion and the implementation of the two grants.

Located at 5220 South Sixth Street Road in Springfield, Noll Medical Pavilion is a 51,000 square foot medical facility. The site is home to The Children’s Center – Mental Health Centers of Central Illinois, the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at SIU School of Medicine, and The Autism Program of Illinois. Primary care and oral health programs at the facility are currently under development.

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