

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Specialty Hospital to Treat Behavioral Health and Chemical Dependency Moves One Step Closer

Edgewood, KY—The SUN Behavioral Health and St. Elizabeth Healthcare specialty hospital partnership has received regulatory approval bringing the project one step closer to reality. The Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services has granted certificate of need approval allowing the facility planning to move forward. Located in Kenton County off Dolwick Drive, the hospital will be jointly owned by SUN Behavioral Health and St. Elizabeth Healthcare.

As announced this past spring, the partnership will result in a new 197-bed, free-standing and comprehensive specialty hospital designed to improve the behavioral health environment in the community. The hospital will help provide a community-wide solution to the lack of access to inpatient behavioral health and chemical dependency resources for children, adolescents and adults in Northern Kentucky.

St. Elizabeth will transfer 140 of its behavioral health and chemical dependency beds to the new facility. NorthKey Community Care will transfer 57 beds including its behavioral health beds to increase overall capacity to the new hospital when completed.

“This collaboration expands and improves integrated inpatient behavioral healthcare services available in Northern Kentucky,” said Steve Page, President and CEO of SUN Behavioral Health. “Our mission at SUN is to increase access and bring a full continuum of high quality services to those suffering from mental illnesses and chemical dependency. We are fully committed to the Northern Kentucky community and to this partnership with St. Elizabeth.”

A 24/7 admission department will provide specialized assessment and treatment to patients and families in times of crisis. Specialized inpatient wings will group patients into personalized programs to provide for the unique requirements of patients according to their ages and behavioral health needs. These programs will create an ideal environment for group therapies and individualized care.

Other benefits of the new joint venture include:

- Comprehensive behavioral health services based on proven best practice models.
- Increased access and education for the community.
- Improved safety for behavioral health patients in the specialty hospital emergency department.
- Serene and therapeutic environment designed specifically for patient population needs.
- A full array of services with tailored treatment options and comprehensive inpatient and outpatient care.
- The ability to attract additional behavioral health and chemical dependency providers.

“We have consistently stated that a comprehensive solution to behavioral health issues involves substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, law enforcement, family support, community support and education,” said Garren Colvin, St. Elizabeth President and Chief Executive Officer. “Our community is faced with many behavioral healthcare challenges at this time. Chemical dependency is just one element of our broader community needs, which will be addressed in this partnership.”

The partnership complements other initiatives that will add to the overall services available in Northern Kentucky, including St. Elizabeth’s partnership with Hazelden/Betty Ford, the integration of behavioral health counseling services into St. Elizabeth Physicians primary care practices, and the behavioral health/chemical dependency screening programs implemented in physician practices and maternal fetal offices.

Northern Kentucky has been on the forefront of community collaboration to bring together resources to meet the needs of the community. When completed the new facility will be approximately 140,000 square feet and cost between \$30 and \$35 million.

There is also an economic impact. There will be approximately 400 total jobs of which approximately 270 are new jobs. This will generate additional payroll tax revenue for the city of Erlanger. A ground-breaking ceremony will occur in early 2016 and the hospital is expected to open in Summer 2017.

SUN Behavioral Health

SUN Behavioral Health operates freestanding psychiatric hospitals where a substantial unmet need for acute services exist. We work closely with medical and surgical hospitals, physicians and behavioral health care providers as well as local schools and community organizations to ensure that our hospitals provide our patients and their families with a seamless continuum of care that meets the highest standards of personalized treatment. For more information, visit www.sunbehavioral.com.

St. Elizabeth Healthcare

St. Elizabeth Healthcare operates six major facilities throughout Northern Kentucky and more than 100 primary care and specialty office locations in Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio. St. Elizabeth is sponsored by the Diocese of Covington and is a member of the Mayo Clinic Care Network. St. Elizabeth is a mission-based organization committed to improving the health of the communities it serves, providing more than \$121 million in uncompensated care and benefit to the community in 2013. For more information, visit www.stelizabeth.com.

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