



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CHESTNUT RIDGE CONTINUES EXCELLENT SERVICE IN FAYETTE

Uniontown, PA – For its continued excellence in serving area residents, Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services Inc. has been selected as January’s exemplary location in the Fayette County Public Relations Initiative’s “Faces and Places” series.

One of the largest mental health treatment and support providers in western Pennsylvania, Chestnut Ridge offers over 20 specific and specialized treatment programs and modalities to help individuals address problem behaviors, improve coping and functioning skills and develop positive approaches to life.

Many Fayette County residents are familiar with CRCSI’s outpatient services, which include individual and group therapy, as well as evaluation and treatment by a medical staff of 12 psychiatrists, certified nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

Additionally, CRCSI introduced Open Access treatment options in September 2017, which streamlined urgent-care mental health services for new clients throughout 2018.

David Artis, Assistant Director of Outpatient Operations and Quality Improvement, said 319 new clients initiated services by completing the initial intake assessment with a therapist - a 15 percent increase in the number of intakes provided when compared to the same timeframe prior to Open Access.

“Additionally, with some innovative changes to scheduling practices, Chestnut Ridge has been able to reduce wait times to meet with a psychiatrist from four months to five days,” Artis said. “As a result, 360 more psychiatric evaluations were completed since the onset of these scheduling practices, demonstrating a 16 percent increase from the previous year.”

As a result of those changes, Artis added, residents of Fayette County and neighboring communities have “nearly immediate access to an exceptionally high level of care.”

According to Chestnut Ridge Chief Executive Officer Mike Quinn, CRCSI also offers a variety of specialized therapeutic techniques, including cognitive behavioral therapy, dialectical behavioral therapy, marital therapy, dual diagnosis treatment for substance disorders, social skills development for school-aged children, treatment for trauma victims and more.

“These and other treatment options are then adapted to address the specific problem or diagnosis of the individual, such as helping someone suffering from symptoms of depression,” Quinn said.

CRCSI also boasts a team of highly trained crisis intervention specialists - a critical component of Fayette County's health care and social support network.

Those experiencing a mental health emergency are encouraged to seek support 24 hours a day, seven days a week by calling the Fayette County Crisis Telephone Line at 724-437-1003; during hours of operation at CRCSI offices; or through community dispatch services.

"The unfortunate example being the recent tragic and fatal fire in Uniontown," Quinn said.

Chestnut Ridge provides care and support to well over 8,000 Fayette County residents annually and boasts a 55-year history of being the local health care system's mainstay and primary provider of mental health services.

"We have grown to a \$14 million business with 200 employees," Quinn said. "We take to heart our motto, 'We treat each person as if they are family.' With this in mind, we feel it is important to be an organization that is well-integrated to all strata of the Fayette County community."

Quinn said CRCSI's goal is to offer immediate and effective help to those in need of mental health support and, moving forward, will continue to develop new and innovative treatment and support services.

In 2019, the team's focus will shift to improving and maintaining mental wellness with an emphasis on specialized populations, including military, first responders, younger children, those transitioning toward adulthood and the elderly.

"More support will be offered in the community and access to treatment professionals will be provided via a variety of modalities," Quinn said. "With all the good things happening in Fayette County, it is important for Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services to continue providing quality care and treatment for our residents."

Chestnut Ridge has outpatient offices in Uniontown, 100 New Salem Rd., and Connellsville, 1051 Morrell Ave.

For more information, call Chestnut Ridge Counseling Services at 724-437-0729, visit www.crcsi.org or stop by any location.

To learn more about Fayette County, visit www.FayetteCountyPA.org.

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