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**For Immediate Release**

**Expansion of Child Psychiatry Program Addresses Shortage**  
*Medical College of Wisconsin Broadens Child Psychiatry Program*

**Milwaukee, Feb. 8, 2017** – The Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW) applauds Governor Scott Walker for his proposal to expand the Child Psychiatry Consultation Program (CPCP). The Governor’s recently announced 2017-19 biennial budget provides an additional investment of \$500,000 to help ensure more children and adolescents in Wisconsin have enhanced access to mental health care.

“We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to Governor Walker for recognizing the dire need of children and adolescents with mental health conditions,” said Jon Lehrmann, MD, the Charles E. Kubly Professor and Chair in Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at MCW. “Governor Walker’s commitment will go a long way toward better outcomes for thousands of children and their families. We have a shortage of child psychiatrists in Wisconsin, and nationwide, and expansion of the CPCP will ensure that more children in Wisconsin have access to mental health.”

Because the psychiatry shortage is so acute, primary care providers – such as pediatricians and family physicians – have by necessity become Wisconsin’s front-line mental health care providers. Unfortunately, many of these clinicians do not receive extensive mental health training. As a result, less than half report feeling confident treating children with mental health concerns. The CPCP addresses these issues by providing primary care providers the resources they need to better care for their patients. Providers are able to contact the CPCP to obtain immediate, same-day access to mental health consultations. Providers also receive education on mental health prevention and treatment, creating long-term confidence in treating mental health issues more independently and effectively. The CPCP also provides providers with referral support to other mental health professionals and community resources.

MCW, in partnership with Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin, was selected by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to begin operating the CPCP in January 2015. Since the program’s inception, more than 90 percent of providers utilizing the CPCP report satisfaction with the program, and report more confidence treating patients with mental health care needs.

“When you have a child with mental health needs, not having access to care is unimaginable, and yet, it happens every day in Wisconsin,” said Billie Kubly, whose son Charlie lost his battle with depression in 2003. “Since my Charlie’s death, I’ve made it my mission to find ways to help families in need of mental health services for their children to hopefully prevent another tragedy.” Dr Michael and Billie Kubly initially funded the Charles E. Kubly Child Psychiatry Access Project in Milwaukee in 2013, which served as a model for the creation of Wisconsin’s Child Psychiatry Consultation Program.

MCW strongly supports Governor Walker’s proposed expansion of the CPCP, and urges the Wisconsin State Legislature to approve the expansion in the upcoming 2017-19 biennial state budget. Assuming the expansion is approved, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services

would open a new request for proposal application process for organizations interested in providing CPCP services in additional areas of the state.

Wisconsin's CPCP was initially signed into law by Governor Walker under 2013 Wisconsin Act 127. The program was originally funded with \$500,000 per year and currently covers Milwaukee and 15 northern Wisconsin counties.

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### **About the Medical College of Wisconsin**

The Medical College of Wisconsin is the state's only private medical school and health sciences graduate school. Founded in 1893, it is dedicated to leadership and excellence in education, patient care, research and community engagement. More than 1,200 students are enrolled in MCW's medical school and graduate school programs in Milwaukee, 56 medical students enrolled at MCW-Green Bay, and 26 students matriculated to MCW-Central Wisconsin in 2016. MCW's School of Pharmacy will open in 2017 or 2018 with an initial class size of 60 students. A major national research center, MCW is the largest research institution in the Milwaukee metro area and second largest in Wisconsin. In FY 2014-15, faculty received approximately \$158 million in external support for research, teaching, training and related purposes, of which approximately \$139 million is for research. This total includes highly competitive research and training awards from the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Annually, MCW faculty direct or collaborate on more than 3,200 research studies, including clinical trials. Additionally, more than 1,500 physicians provide care in virtually every specialty of medicine for more than 525,000 patients annually.

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