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Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan Prepares to Open Community-Based Residential Facility in Waukesha Amidst Opioid Crisis

LSS Aspen Center will offer diverse treatment options for women and men to respond to community need for affordable comprehensive care facilities

WEST ALLIS, Wis. (August 27, 2019) – [Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan](#) (LSS) revealed plans with Waukesha County to provide comprehensive medically monitored treatment for women and men from throughout southeastern Wisconsin. The 23,000 square foot community-based residential facility, named LSS Aspen Center, is located at 2000 W. Bluemound Rd., Waukesha. LSS Aspen Center will begin accepting patients in January of 2020.

Drug overdose is now the leading cause of accidental death in the United States according to the National Safety Council. In 2017, there were 900 opioid-related deaths in Wisconsin alone, a 600 percent increase since 2000. The Wisconsin Department of Health and Human Services reported that as of 2017, 78 percent of those in need of substance use treatment were not seeking or receiving care.

LSS Aspen Center will reduce the outside placement of women referred for medically monitored treatment due to a lack of high-quality, affordable options in the area. It also provides a more advanced approach to addiction treatment for men currently receiving transitional residential treatment – a half-way house level of care. The 22-bed medically monitored treatment center will offer a wide range of psychosocial rehabilitation and therapeutic services in two gender-specific wings with the capacity to grow to 34 beds based on need. LSS Aspen Center is expected to serve approximately 125 individuals from Waukesha County and Southeastern Wisconsin annually.

“LSS believes healthy communities happen when we co-create to eliminate barriers to services and resources for those in need,” said Héctor Colón, President and Chief Executive Officer of LSS. “In extending our drug and alcohol treatment offerings in Waukesha, we provide new avenues for community belonging to those who would normally have to seek care outside the area.”

Building upon the organization’s 40-year history and proven models of success, LSS Aspen Center intends to provide the needed space and resources for successful treatment such as:

- Individual and small and large group counseling spaces
- Fitness and quiet rooms for physical and psychological needs
- Family gathering and counseling spaces to address the needs of the entire family
- Secure storage for medication use to aid in recovery
- Outdoor walking path, seating and recreation area

The new facility will also provide expanded opportunities to offer services reflecting current research techniques and best practices including:

- Trauma-Informed, Trauma-Responsive Treatment
- Individual and group counseling
- Family education and counseling
- Gender-specific groups
- Co-occurring disorders group

“Being able to serve women inside of Waukesha County rather than sending them to surrounding areas for treatment is a win,” said Paul Farrow, Waukesha County Executive. “When we send the women who live here out of the county, we are not allowing them to be close to their families, children or jobs, creating long term issues. LSS Aspen Center will mitigate this issue for women in other parts of southeastern Wisconsin who are currently awaiting treatment.”

LSS operates two other treatment facilities in Waukesha. Genesis House is a 12-bed residential treatment facility for men and Cephas House is a 14-bed residential treatment facility providing both primary and transitional residential services for men with substance use disorders.

About Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan, Inc.

Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan strives to build healthy communities filled with people using their God-given gifts to serve. For more than 100 years, this has been our goal. At LSS, we value compassion, co-creation, change and courage, instilling these core values in every community and residential program we offer. We believe in the infinite worth of every individual and because of this, we are committed to the growth and empowerment of others. To learn more about how LSS acts compassionately, serves humbly and leads courageously, visit www.LSSwis.org.

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