



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Contacts:

Leslie DaCruz  
Gateway Healthcare  
Tel: (401) 724-8400 ext. 244  
ldacruz@gatewayhealth.org

Meena Dayak  
The National Council for Community  
Behavioral Healthcare  
Tel: (202) 684-3728  
meenad@thenationalcouncil.org

## LOCAL ORGANIZATION SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN TRAUMA-INFORMED PRACTICES LEARNING COMMUNITY

PAWTUCKET – The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (National Council) announced that Pawtucket-based **Gateway Healthcare**, a community behavioral healthcare organization, has been selected as one of 21 organizations nationwide, and the only organization in New England, to participate in the first National Council Learning Community for Adoption of Trauma-Informed Practices (see list below). The learning community is a group of healthcare organizations committed to creating environments and services that address the needs of individuals who have experienced significant trauma. The learning community is supported by an award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

“We can’t begin to address the totality of an individual’s healthcare, or focus on promoting health and preventing disease unless we address trauma,” said National Council President and CEO Linda Rosenberg. “The greater the trauma, the greater the risk for alcoholism and alcohol abuse, depression, illicit drug use, suicide attempts, and other negative outcomes. Trauma-informed care will soon be seen as the expectation, not the exception, in behavioral health treatment systems,” she added.

“Gateway is honored to be a part of this important initiative. As a behavioral healthcare organization and a champion for individuals with behavioral health issues, we need to further the process of a trauma-informed system of care in order to achieve the greatest treatment success for our clients,” said Richard Leclerc, President of Gateway Healthcare.

Trauma is pervasive — and now considered to be a near universal experience of individuals with behavioral health problems. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women’s Health, 55 to 99 percent of women in substance use treatment and 85 to 95 percent of women in the public mental health system report a

history of trauma, with the abuse most commonly having occurred in childhood.

“Understanding what happened to us, not what is wrong with us, sometimes takes a lifetime,” says learning community participant Gayle Bluebird of the Delaware Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health. “Hopefully focus on trauma will allow us to talk about our histories and be understood so that we can move on and have meaningful lives.”

The 21 organizations chosen to participate in the National Council Learning Community for Adoption of Trauma-Informed Practices are:

A New Leaf, Inc., Mesa, AZ

Advantage Behavioral Health Systems, Athens, GA

Beech Brook, Cleveland, OH

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless, Denver, CO

Congreso de Latinos Unidos, Philadelphia, PA

Division of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (DSAMH)-State of Delaware, New Castle, DE

Easter Seals Michigan, Auburn Hills, MI

Family Health Centers, Inc. Phoenix Health Center, Louisville, KY

**Gateway Healthcare, Inc., Pawtucket, RI**

Hill Country Community MHMR Center, Kerrville, TX

Lutheran Family Services of Nebraska, Inc, Omaha, NE

Mental Health Services for Homeless Persons, Inc., Cleveland, OH

On Our Own of St. Mary's Inc., & Prince George's County Wellness & Recovery Center, Leonardtown, MD

Presbyterian Hospital, Charlotte, NC

Refugee Services, Minnesota Council of Churches, Minneapolis, MN

Region 3 Behavioral Health Services, Kearney, NE

Salvation Army Haven, Los Angeles, CA

San Diego Youth Services, San Diego, CA

Santa Maria Hostel, Inc., Houston, TX

Seminole Behavioral Healthcare, Fern Park, FL

Truman Medical Centers, Kansas City, MO

***Gateway Healthcare** is Rhode Island's largest provider of community behavioral healthcare, offering integrated treatment and prevention through residential, outpatient and community-based programs. With its staff of over 700, Gateway's tenure in the Rhode Island community boasts an annual clientele of over 19,000 unduplicated men, women and children, providing a comprehensive continuum of services 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Our network of affiliates include The Autism Project, Capital City Community Centers, Caritas, FRIENDS WAY, Lighthouse for Youth, New Hope for Families and South Shore Center. Gateway proudly stands alongside its affiliates in a mutual effort to address creative solutions for community care. This impressive continuum places Gateway at the forefront in assisting individuals in the community in a myriad of ways. For more information, please visit [www.gatewayhealth.org](http://www.gatewayhealth.org).*

***The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare** is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) association of 1,800 behavioral healthcare organizations that provide treatment and rehabilitation for mental illnesses and addiction disorders to nearly six million adults, children and families in communities across the country. Learn more at [www.TheNationalCouncil.org](http://www.TheNationalCouncil.org).*