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Behavior Clinic Receives SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices Endorsement

MILWAUKEE (November 20, 2015) – The Behavior Clinic, a partnership between Marquette University and Penfield Children's Center, received SAMHSA's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) endorsement for its Early Pathways Program.

"This is a tremendous endorsement for the Behavior Clinic and the Early Pathways program," said Dr. Robert Fox, professor of counseling psychology at Marquette University and founder of the Behavior Clinic at Penfield Children's Center. "The NREPP endorsement is a credit to our staff and the incredibly important work they do day in and day out with our community's most vulnerable children."

Based on more than 12 years of evidence-based programming, the Early Pathways program met the NREPP's standards for its ability to achieve the following outcomes for families of young children: strengthening the parent-child relationship through child-led play, maintaining developmentally appropriate expectations of children and methods for responding to disruptive behaviors, using positive reinforcement to strengthen pro-social behavior, and using time-limited strategies for reducing disruptive behaviors. Organizations looking to use a mental health program for young children will be able to replicate these programs across the county.

"The Behavior Clinic is a critical community/academic partnership with Marquette University, serving more than 400 children each year," said Christine Holmes, president and CEO at Penfield Children's Center. "The NREPP endorsement is a tremendous validation of the Behavior Clinic's direct service, training and research model and value of the Early Pathways program to our community."

Early Pathways is an evidence-based training program for mental health professionals who serve families of young children with behavior challenges. Based on the Behavior Clinic's research-based treatment strategies, the program provides a comprehensive and integrated assessment and treatment protocol for addressing significant behavior problems in children.

“The Behavior Clinic rightfully deserves this prestigious national recognition for the vital service, teaching, and research work it performs in the area of pediatric mental health,” said Dr. Bill Henk, Dean at Marquette University’s College of Education. “The Clinic enables very young children, who are at risk behaviorally and/or emotionally, to follow a normal, healthy, and positive developmental path. Its outreach bodes well both for their futures and those of their families, many of whom are of limited economic means, and in that sense, aligns perfectly with Marquette University’s Jesuit mission.”

The Behavior Clinic’s treatment model not only helps to remediate the effects of trauma on young children, but teaches parents how to respond to behavioral challenges, helping to prevent future problems.

ABOUT PENFIELD CHILDREN’S CENTER

A leader in child development, Penfield Children's Center creates a positive start in life for infants and children, many of whom have developmental delays or disabilities, by providing early education, health services and family programming. Serving more than 1,600 children annually, Penfield delivers research-based programs at the critical time of early brain development when physical, cognitive, language, social, and self-help skills are formed.

Penfield Children’s Center is named in honor of Dr. Wilder Penfield (1891-1976), a world-renowned neurosurgeon who strongly advocated early intervention for children with developmental delays and disabilities. His quote, “never underestimate the capacity of the very young, and never, never let them down,” has been the foundation of Penfield’s mission since 1967.

ABOUT MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY’S COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

The College of Education is one of 11 colleges at Marquette University, Wisconsin's largest independent educational institution which enjoys a national reputation for excellence. With a mission of teaching, research and service benefitting both education and mental health in the community, the College of Education carries a deep commitment to justice and a rigorous intellectual grounding. Graduate students enrolled in the Counseling Education and Counseling Psychology program in the College gain valuable experience working with children and parents, learning new ways to care for early child behavioral and emotional problems, and helping parents interact positively with their children in the Behavior Clinic. The clinic also has an ongoing applied research program that regularly contributes findings to the field of pediatric mental health.

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