



For Immediate Release

Contact Info: Kelly Pomerville, Marketing and Public Relations Manager
941-639-8300 Ext. 2275

**Charlotte Behavioral Health Care Announces Groundbreaking
of Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit Expansion**

PUNTA GORDA, FL. (October 18, 2016) – Charlotte Behavioral Health Care (CBHC) announced it is breaking ground on a 6,000+ square foot expansion of the Margo Lang Crisis Stabilization Unit. The \$2.3 million dollar expansion includes an additional 10 children's beds, an activity room, and administrative space.

The groundbreaking is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 3rd. The public is invited to attend. Chief Tom Lewis of the Punta Gorda Police Department and Major Earl Goodwyne of the Charlotte County Sheriff's office, among others will speak.

The expansion will sit on the organization's current 40-acre campus. Design Builder for the project is JE Charlotte Construction Corp., a provider of a full range of commercial construction management services, backed by more than 30 years' experience in the commercial building industry. The design for the expansion was completed by Brian Rommel AIA Architectural Studio.

"Currently, we are operating at 108% capacity, which means that patients may be transferred to other counties – away from their family and support network," stated Victoria Scanlon, LMHC, CEO at CBHC.

The current licensed capacity for the Crisis Stabilization Unit is 20 beds. With the expansion, the unit is expected to serve 1500 patients a year.

"This expansion will support immediate demand as well as prepare us for future demand," said Scanlon. "Over time, based upon that demand, we anticipate increasing our licensing capacity to the maximum allowed by law, which is 30 beds."

An unexpected crisis can happen to a child at any time when they are feeling overwhelmed by their own feelings or when the demands of life surpass their ability to cope. A possible crisis may occur in response to a recent traumatic event or result from an accumulation of stressors over a period of time. Mental health issues experienced by children in crisis may include aggression or problems controlling anger, difficulties getting along with peers or adults, managing worries and other troubling feelings and thoughts. These children may feel sad or worthless and engage in self-injurious behavior, sometimes even suicide attempts, while trying to cope with significant losses, traumas, or other major life events and changes.

The Margo Lang Children’s Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU) serves as a safe place where healing begins. The expansion is designed to provide help to children and adolescents ages 5-17 and their families in a crisis situation. Each child that is admitted is evaluated by a licensed therapist, and a child psychiatrist may recommend an inpatient stay of 72 hours to stabilize symptoms. The CSU serves to help children and their families stabilize the situation and return to pre-crisis levels of functioning.

“Our therapists create individualized treatment plans for the child and family, addressing the issues and helping solve problems that may have contributed to the crisis,” stated Jennifer Ross, Crisis Services Director at CBHC. “The services we provide are focused on supporting relationships with family and friends, and assisting with an ability to get along with others and function effectively at home, in school, and in the community.”

In addition, the staff works collaboratively with the families current providers, providing information about additional programs and resources available in the community.

For more information, please contact Kelly Pomerville, Marketing and Public Relations Manager at Charlotte Behavioral Health Care at kpomerville@cbhcfl.org or 941.639.8300 ext. 2275.

###