



### **For Immediate Release**

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## **Charlotte Behavioral Health Care Announces Grand Opening of Children's Crisis Stabilization Unit Expansion**

**PUNTA GORDA, FL. (October 10, 2017)** – Charlotte Behavioral Health Care (CBHC) announced it is hosting a grand opening 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 grand opening is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, November 2nd. The public is invited to attend.

The expansion sets on the organization's current 40-acre campus. Design Builder for the project was 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.

"Prior to this expansion, we were 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 previous licensed capacity for the Crisis Stabilization Unit was 20 beds. With the expansion, the unit is expected to serve 1500 patients a year.

"This expansion supports immediate demand as well as prepares 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 Reed, 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, Director of Marketing and Public Relations at Charlotte Behavioral Health Care at [kpomerville@cbhcfl.org](mailto:kpomerville@cbhcfl.org) or 941.639.8300 ext. 2275.

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