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BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKERS WILL BE FIRST IN MISSOURI TO ADOPT NEW FRAMEWORK FOR SERVING CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Kansas City, MO - April 26, 2018 - It is a well-known fact in the behavioral health sector that a child is only as safe and healthy as the family. In order for children to succeed in school and at home, the family must be safe, secure and supported. Soon, Cornerstones of Care social workers, case managers, therapists and youth-care workers will be fully trained in the evidenced-based informed casework practice known as Solution Based Casework®. The research-supported model is designed to empower staff to prioritize care that focuses on full-family health.

Cornerstones of Care has been partnering with children, families and communities for decades. "This framework seamlessly aligns with our philosophy to support the family unit. It's a family-focused approach that meets each individual right where they are," says Denise Cross, president and CEO at Cornerstones of Care.

Nearly 60 trauma-informed staff members who currently work with children and families will implement the framework based on its three core elements:

- Full partnership with the family is a critical and vital goal for each and every case
- The partnership for protection will focus on the patterns of everyday life of the family
- Solutions will target the prevention skills needed to reduce the risk in those everyday life situations

Adoption of the Solution Based Casework® was made possible by the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, the Hall Family Foundation and the H&R Block Foundation. It will also be supported by funds raised as the 2018 Chiefs Charity Game beneficiary. Between October 2017 and March 2018, Dr. Dana Christensen, PhD and Natalie Bowlds, LSCW traveled to Kansas City to train staff. "We're working with Dr. Christensen and Natalie to ensure sustainability. They have trained and certified several staff members, who now have the ability to train future employees who directly serve children and families," says Cross. "In the first two years, foster care case management, intensive in-home services, family reunification and residential treatment programs will implement the framework."

Cornerstones of Care is the first to bring Solution Based Casework® to Missouri. Its researched-based outcomes include increased local and state impact, reduced lengths of stay for youth in residential treatment, reduced re-entries of children in state custody and increased permanency.

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About Cornerstones of Care:

Cornerstones of Care has a long legacy of partnering with children and families to create safe and healthy communities. It serves more than 10,000 children and families through education, mental & behavioral health, foster care & adoption, youth & family support, and community trainings in Kansas, Missouri and beyond. For more information, visit cornerstonesofcare.org.