



NEWS RELEASE

For more information, contact
Jen Lacewell, Industrial and Organizational Psychologist, Seasons Center
Phone: 1-800-242-5101 | E-mail: jlacewell@seasonscenter.org

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For Immediate Release

Seasons Center for Behavioral Health Accelerates Efforts in Evidence-Based Client Care

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Spencer - In a statement on March 3, 2016, Joyfields Institute for Professional Development announced that Seasons Center for Behavioral Health of Spencer, Iowa is accelerating its efforts to deliver on its promise of **evidence-based** client care.

In 2015 the agency leadership participated in a week long capacity building, strategic and action planning sessions which revolved around "becoming an **evidence-based** organization and practitioner". The agency and staff since then have been engaged in months of internal and external self-assessment. They have also been training and implementing **evidence-based** approaches in a concerted effort to enhance care and services they deliver to clients as well as the staff. Currently it is undergoing a review for **certification** as an **evidence-based** organization. Certified Evidence-Based Organizations (CEBO) are recognized for abilities and accomplishments they demonstrate in the area of evidence based policies, programs, and practices. The **certification** process examines five areas at these organizations:

- Knowledge and use of evidence based policies, programs, and practices
- Demonstrating of effective leadership
- Organizational culture and assessment
- Strategic planning, performance measurement, and program **evaluation**
- Building capacity and sustainability

Sobem Nwoko, President, Joyfields Institute and Founder of the EBP Society, congratulates the team on its efforts to build staff and organizational capacity in proven methods that are needed to help their clients achieve success.

In a statement Seasons Center for Behavioral Health Executive Director, Kim Scorza said, "We have been working diligently over the last few years to ensure that those who come to our agency receive the best care possible and that they leave with a positive experience. Part of our process has been on having an outside entity, Joyfields Institute, review the work we are doing and have us make necessary changes so that employees are well-trained and educated on **evidence-based** care. We are excited to have had our first on-site review and receive our provisional **certification** as an Evidence-Based Organization."

Mr. Nwoko further stated, "...employees and their clients seeking supports and services, voluntarily or otherwise, must have confidence the organization is sound, and practices in a way that produces desired outcomes. Every organization must aspire to make that the standard."

Ms. Scorza continued, "We believe the work we are doing now will have a positive impact on our patients, employees, and our overall region for many years to come."

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About Joyfields Institute for Professional Development

Joyfields Institute standardized Evidence based & Strength-centered programs and supports training and performance **evaluation** through its workshops, conferences and webcasts. Later it created EBP Society, the community of professionals and organizations committed to the **evidence-based** movement.

In 2015 the institute introduced EvalMeasures Software, designed to help professionals gather, evaluate and report data to sustain work they do. Learn more at www.joyfields.org

About Seasons Center and Autumn's Center

Autumn's Center, the first of its kind regional children's center, will house rooms and offices designated to care for children's behavioral health, including areas for psychiatric services, outpatient therapy, psychological testing, behavioral health intervention services, substance abuse counseling, parent education, and care coordination services. The center will offer a child friendly and healing environment throughout the building.

Founded in 1959, Seasons Center for Behavioral Health continues to be a leading, comprehensive behavioral health center in the northwest region of Iowa. Offering a broad range of behavioral health Services, Seasons recognizes that investing in behavioral health is investing in a community's economic, education, health and human services systems. Seasons strives to empower individuals so they might become active, contributing members of their communities. For more information on Seasons' services, please visit www.seasonscenter.org or call 1-800-242-5101.

Avera is a regional partnership of health professionals who share support services to provide excellent care at 300 locations in 100 communities in

eastern South Dakota and surrounding states. Our ministry, our people and our superior values distinguish Avera. We carry on the health care legacy of the Benedictine and Presentation Sisters, delivering care in an environment guided by our values of compassion hospitality and stewardship. Avera employs more than 13,500. Inpatient, outpatient and clinic visits totaled nearly 2.5 million in the last year, a number equal to more than twice the population of the Avera service area. For more information please visit www.avera.org.