



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

Seasons Center Receives \$150,000 Grant to Develop Children's Mental Health Crisis Services Plan

SPENCER, IA – Seasons Center for Behavioral Health has been awarded a \$150,000 nine-month planning grant from the Iowa Department of Human Services. The purpose of the grant is to fund the continued development of children's mental health crisis services throughout the state of Iowa. Seasons was one of two agencies named. Seasons will work closely with partners: Boys Town, Juvenile Court, Prairie Lake AEA, and Avera in providing a collective rural voice on how children's crisis services should be delivered in the future.

"We are extremely excited about the opportunity to bring together our partner agencies and numerous other entities to explore ways to strengthen what is already working and develop recommendations on how to fill gaps in care," said Kim Scorza, CEO/President of Seasons Center.

In 2015, Seasons Center was called to care for 2,123 children. Seasons has taken the lead in providing quality mental health care for children in northwest Iowa through the opening of Autumn's Center, the first of its kind regional children's center located in Spencer, Iowa. Autumn's Center is opening this month.

"Part of this nine month process will be the active engagement of a wide spectrum of people including school officials, healthcare personnel, and countless others to make recommendations to the Iowa Department of Human Services on what a rural children's mental health crisis system can look like," adds Scorza. "We look forward to working with the Department and many others over in the next several months."

Seasons Center would like to thank Boys Town, Juvenile Court, Prairie Lake AEA, and Avera for agreeing to partner on this grant application and initiative.

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.