



Today's Date: May 3, 2022

Release Date: IMMEDIATE

Gabriella Smith  
*Director of Communications &  
Community Engagement*  
(434) 238-7727

## **Horizon Behavioral Health hosts motorcycle ride and rally for National Mental Health Awareness Month**

**Lynchburg, VA** – Even though mental illnesses are common, affecting nearly 1 in five adult U.S. citizens, estimates suggest that only half of people with mental illnesses receive treatment ([NIH](#)). When left untreated, mental illnesses can lead to worsening symptoms, the development of long-term physical problems, decreased quality of personal relationships and difficulty coping with the demands of daily living.

On Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the community is coming together for a motorcycle ride and rally to spread awareness in honor of National Mental Health Awareness Month. Horizon Behavioral Health is partnering with Harley Davidson of Lynchburg to host the “Ride of Our Lives” event. The motorcycle ride begins at 10:00am at the Harley Davidson of Lynchburg, located at 20452 Timberlake Road, Lynchburg, VA 24502, followed by a finish line rally at 11:00am at Horizon’s Wellness Center at Langhorne, located at 2215 Langhorne Road, Lynchburg, VA 24502. Leading the ride will be the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association: Chapter 2711 Lynchburg, VA. Riders and spectators will be wearing green as an international symbol to show their support for the cause.

The goal of this event is to eliminate the stigma that prevents people from talking about their mental health, educate the community about available services, trainings, and resources, and encourage early conversations about mental health among all age groups.

##

*Horizon Behavioral Health has been the primary public behavioral healthcare provider in the Region 2000 area for more than 53 years. In the last year, Horizon provided services to approximately 12,000 adults and children, addressing problems with mental health, substance use and intellectual disabilities. Horizon is accredited by CARF International. This represents the highest level of accreditation that can be given to a behavioral health organization.*