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More transport options to psychiatric hospitals for individuals experiencing mental health crisis

Lynchburg, VA – Horizon Behavioral Health announces its recent partnership with Allied Universal Security Services to provide an on-site hub in Lynchburg, Virginia, for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis. When a person is unwilling to seek care but presents a danger to themselves or others, they are placed under a Temporary Detention Order (TDO), at which point local law enforcement officers are responsible for transporting those individuals to the accepting psychiatric hospital with an opening for treatment. According to the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, over 21,000 TDO admissions were predicted for fiscal year 2022 (DBHDS, 2022). In addition, the critical shortage of psychiatric beds has placed added pressure on law enforcement to transport patients across the state to find placement.

In support of the state's initiative to offer alternative means of transportation to support local law enforcement and meet the mental health needs of our community, Horizon Behavioral Health's Langhorne Wellness Center will serve as a hub for Allied Universal's fleet of transport vehicles and provide clinical assessment to all eligible individuals to be transported. Allied Universal will provide transportation to psychiatric hospitals for individuals placed under a Temporary Detention Order (TDO). This partnership is currently operational, as of January 2024, as a safe and effective alternative to police transport for up to five dispatched transports from the hub, at one time.

“Horizon remains fully invested in exploring new avenues with partners across the Commonwealth to provide the types of community programs that can truly create a measurable difference. Right now, that means addressing barriers to psychiatric care and supporting our law enforcement partners — and the need for officers to drive patients to those beds.” Shares Melissa Lucy, Horizon CEO.

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Horizon Behavioral Health has been the primary public behavioral healthcare provider in the Region 2000 area for more than 54 years. Horizon provides services to adults and children, addressing challenges 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.