



**TODAY'S DATE:** April 30, 2021

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Horizon Behavioral Health is awarded an \$800,000 Federal Health Grant that will provide outreach and treatment in rural, Central Virginia!**

**Lynchburg** – Horizon Behavioral Health (Horizon) is pleased to announce being awarded an \$800,000 grant by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to address rural health disparities in Central Virginia. This four year grant aims to serve 150 clients in Amherst and Bedford Counties beginning in May 2021.

The primary population that will be served are adults 18 and older with a mental illness and/or substance use disorder in the rural communities of Amherst and Bedford Counties who struggle getting treatment due to lack of providers and available services. This evidence-based treatment grant, provides a unique opportunity to collaborate with Dr. Kenyon Knapp, Dean at the School of Behavioral Sciences at Liberty University and Dr. Fred Volk, Director of Doctoral Research and an LU Professor. Dr. Volk will serve as the co-principal investigator and external evaluator on the project, “I am thankful for the opportunity and excited to work with Horizon Behavioral Health in helping address the mental health needs of our community,” says Dr. Volk.

For over 50 years, Horizon has focused efforts on developing and implementing evidence-based services that help increase years of life and reduce disparities in health outcomes among adults with serious mental illness and substance use. Jennifer Smith Ramey, Project Director at Horizon stated, “Improving health in our communities by collaborating with local universities and existing community partners bridges the link between research and science and the delivery of empirically supported prevention and treatment to those in our community most in need.”

Damien Cabezas, CEO at Horizon stated, “We are thankful to our valued community and academic partners, and the Horizon team for developing a proposal that addresses population health needs using innovative, evidence-based, and collaborative approaches.”