



**For Immediate Release:
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LifePath Behavioral Health Clinic Hosts Grand Opening

Lexington, KY: On Tuesday, October 11th at 11:30 a.m. a Ribbon Cutting was held for the new LifePath Behavioral Health Clinic on its campus at 1165 Centre Parkway. The event featured remarks from Congressman Andy Barr as well as Councilmember Fred Brown and Dr. Aime Kunes.

LifePath is a division of Employment Solutions, a nonprofit organization founded in 1983. This newest division offers a comprehensive menu of services designed to promote mental and emotional wellness, lifestyle health, and recovery to individuals, couples and families seeking our services.

Bob Quick, CEO & President of Commerce Lexington stated: "Thank you to Rick, Aime and the entire LifePath team for your dedication and commitment to providing services that are critical to people throughout Central Kentucky and will encourage a healthy workforce and community."

According to LifePath Director Amie Kunes, "LifePath will address a growing gap in behavioral health services within Central Kentucky for both availability and affordability, this lack of service adequacy has been rendered evermore conspicuous as a consequence of the Covid pandemic."

In 2015, shortly after the passage of the Affordable Care, the percentage of psychiatrists willing to accept Medicaid reimbursement decreased to only 34.8 percent, according to the American Medical Association. Additionally, the National Alliance on Mental Illness recognized that fewer medical students chose psychiatry as a specialty and many psychiatrists retired, leaving less than half of the practitioners in the United States willing to accept any form of insurance other than cash.

Simply stated, inadequate rates covered through Medicaid, Medicare and private insurance discourage providers from accepting any form of payment other than cash. The difficulty in obtaining behavioral health services is further compromised by waiting lists extending up to six-weeks or more—cold comfort for people dealing with suicidal ideation or families supporting a loved one in in crisis. Central Kentucky is no exception.

LifePath is addressing these unmet needs by providing a range of therapeutic offerings, including medication management and outpatient substance abuse treatment, while honoring most forms of

insurance including Medicaid and accepting people into treatment within 48-hours of request with no waiting lists. These features will come at a cost.

So much so that, in the case of LifePath, it will require the services of no less than nine full time clinicians merely to cover direct costs. As noted by Amie Kunes, "Life Path stands to lose many thousands of dollars before it will break even. Dollars that will never be recovered, but because we have a nonprofit mission, LifePath is willing to make this sacrifice for Central Kentucky."

As Central Kentucky continues to face an exceptionally tight labor market, LifePath will serve to help employers retain their workers by providing readily available, convenient, and affordable critical behavioral health services.

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