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For Immediate Release

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## RAISE Program For First Break Psychosis to Expand in 2016-2017

**GRAND RAPIDS** - More people recognize the importance of mental health and early intervention programs in West Michigan and beyond. Recently, Network180 was awarded \$869,000 more in FY16 for a program to treat people suffering from a first break of psychosis from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). The funding comes from the Federal Mental Health Block Grant through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Conditions of the increased award require that it be utilized for evidence-based treatments for first episode psychosis. Psychosis is defined as a break from reality which may include symptoms like hallucinations or delusions along with impairment in functioning at school or work.

Psychosis is rare but devastating; about ten individuals per 100,000 will experience their first episode of psychosis in any given year and this usually affects young people in their teens or twenties. Intervening early in a person's experience with psychosis increases their chance for recovery and leading an independent, productive life. The *Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode* (RAISE) program has shown positive results. "Network180 partnered in the original research on the RAISE model and now it's been nearly two years since we became the fiduciary of \$732,000 in annual funding designated for rolling out the RAISE treatment model," said Scott Gilman, Executive Director of Network180. "After seeing positive outcomes, we're pleased that others recognize this as a worthy investment. With all of the concerns about treating mental illness early in young people, we believe this funding can improve care for patients and their families, who are dealing with this devastating condition on a daily basis."

Along with ETCH in Lansing, and Easter Seals in Oakland county, InterAct of Michigan has been providing RAISE programming through Network180 to patients and families in west Michigan since 2014. MDHHS has identified three priorities to focus on with the increased funding:

- Training and treatment around first episode psychosis;
- Expansion of teams to treat first episode psychosis;
- Development of sustainability of the programs outside of grant funding.

Most health insurances do not currently cover all of the intensive specialized treatments prescribed through the model, although Blue Care Network has begun covering the services. Of the services, the medication and therapy services may be reimbursed by the insurer, but in limited amounts. To date, more than 87 people in Michigan have received treatment through the grant funding. The implementation teams bill health insurances when benefits are available. The grant funding covers the supported employment and education services in their entirety, as well as the services over and above that which the insurer will pay.

In FY17, the SAMHSA Mental Health Block Grant amount from MDHHS to Network180 will increase to \$1.6 million. This additional funding will allow for possible expansion of the current teams as well as onboarding and training of new teams to provide this evidence-based care. "We are delighted to bring

(more)

this cutting edge treatment to even more citizens of the state of Michigan,” says Network180 Behavioral Health Medical Director, Dr. Eric Achtyes, and Kari Kempema, Contract Manager for the grant. Network180 will be releasing a Request for Proposals next month, seeking interested sites for training, implementation of the treatment, and participation in activities meant to support sustainability.

National Institute of Mental Health’s RAISE website:

<http://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/topics/schizophrenia/raise/raise-questions-and-answers.shtml>