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For Immediate Release

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## Network180 Awarded \$1 Million from Michigan Health Endowment Fund

**GRAND RAPIDS** – Network180 received \$1 million in funding from the Michigan Health Endowment Fund to support replication of the Behavioral Health Home (BHH) service delivery model. This grant will allow Network180 to specifically target and test the model with young adults and elderly individuals.

The BHH engages a multidisciplinary team that includes a psychiatrist, a registered nurse, a medical assistant, case managers, outpatient therapists, and peer support. To date, the program has shown great results for adults between the ages of 25-59. This Michigan Health Endowment Fund grant will allow Network180 to replicate and test the BHH program and see if the same results are possible with young adults (ages 18-25), the elderly, and those with complex substance use disorders.

“The Behavioral Health Home has been effective in Kent County, resulting in significant savings,” said Scott Gilman, Executive Director of Network180. “The total cost of care has been about \$1,500 less per person per year than those served in traditional case management. These savings include reduced emergency department visits and fewer psychiatric hospitalizations than individuals receiving traditional care.”

The grant runs through July of 2018, and includes funding for in depth training of all clinical team members and for external evaluation of the replication effort.

Research shows that half of all chronic mental illness begins by age 14, and three-quarters has begun by age 24. Often, those diagnosed with a serious mental illness between ages 18-25 do not meet the criteria set for case management services. The project will test the impact of allowing 18-25 year olds with serious mental illness and/or substance use disorders to enroll in services before significant damage is done. The BHH will coordinate closely with Network180's new Children's Mobile Crisis Unit (which will open next month). This mobile crisis and stabilization unit will serve youth up to age 21, and can directly refer 18-21 year olds into the BHH for early initiation of treatment for serious mental illness and substance use disorders.

The grant will also help Network180 work with seriously mentally ill older or elderly adults, who generally have higher rates of emergency department use, longer hospital stays, increased falls, and increased substance abuse. The Behavioral Health Home works with individuals through periods of illness and recovery, maintaining flexibility in intensity based on the individual's needs. The key is the "right amount of service at the right time."

The Michigan Health Endowment Fund was established to improve the health of Michigan residents and reduce the cost of health care with special emphasis on the health and wellness of children and seniors. The Fund was created through the passage of Public Act 4 of 2013, which authorized certain changes to how Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan (BCBSM) operates in the state. For additional information about the Michigan Health Endowment Fund, visit [mhealthfund.com](http://mhealthfund.com) or call 517-374-0031.

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