



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***** PRESS RELEASE *****

NSMHA Expanding Access to Services as Community Behavioral Health Center

***Will provide Urgent Care, Emergency Services and more to Chelsea,
Revere, East Boston, Winthrop and Charlestown***

CHELSEA, Mass. – North Suffolk Mental Health Association (NSMHA) is honored to be awarded the designation of Community Behavioral Health Center (CBHC) from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, which will allow the Chelsea-based nonprofit to expand local access to routine, urgent, and crisis treatment for mental health conditions and substance use disorders starting in January 2023.

As a CBHC, NSMHA will further expand same-day evaluations and referrals to treatment, add more evening and weekend hours, enhance timely follow-up appointments, and offer more peer support, and evidence-based behavioral health treatment – including medication-assisted treatment (MAT) – both in person and via telehealth. Part of a statewide network of 25 CBHCs, NSMHA will deliver 24/7 community-based mobile crisis intervention and stabilization as an alternative to hospital emergency departments, for adults, children, youth and families of all ages and backgrounds in East Boston, Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop and Charlestown.

“NSMHA is pleased to be part of the Commonwealth’s investment in a high-quality behavioral healthcare system that includes prevention, reduces individuals experiencing crisis, drives client education, and promotes coordination and follow up to reduce emergency department overutilization,” said NSMHA President and CEO Damien Cabezas. “We also applaud the Baker Administration and the Legislature in promoting access, health equity, and parity.

“Siting CBHCs across the state and recognizing providers’ strong ties to our local communities will allow us to create a more responsive system by building on our current array of services, strengthening the safety net and improving access to a continuum of care for historically underserved communities,” Cabezas added.

The Community Behavioral Health Center is a new model and an important piece of the state’s Roadmap for Behavioral Health Reform, a multi-year blueprint published by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services in 2021 to streamline access and strengthen the delivery of mental health and substance use treatment for MassHealth members.

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ABOUT NSMHA: Founded in 1959, North Suffolk Mental Health Association touches the lives of nearly 10,000 people annually in more than 75 programs throughout Chelsea, Revere, Winthrop, East Boston, Charlestown and Boston. NSMHA supports adults, children and families across the lifespan who are experiencing mental health challenges, substance use disorders and/or have developmental disabilities. The organization employs over 900 people who provide services in nine languages, including ASL, through four outpatient clinics; 39 residential programs; two Recovery Support Centers and a Recovery Learning Center. It operates a robust Training Center as well as a 24/7/365 Recovery Support hotline.