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Bridgeway Announces Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services in Somerset County

Elizabeth, N.J. – Bridgeway, central NJ’s leading mental health rehabilitation and recovery organization, has been chosen by the NJ Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) to deliver a critical mental health service in Somerset County. Psychiatric emergency screening services previously delivered by Somerset County Department of Human Services and based in a local hospital, will now be provided by Bridgeway in an easily accessible community location in Somerville beginning in February 2017.

With funding from the DMHAS, supplemented by county funding, Bridgeway will deliver the Psychiatric Emergency Screening Services (PESS) program in Somerset County. Funding will ensure prompt psychiatric assessment, crisis intervention, and referral services will be offered 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. The program will also operate a 24 hour hotline, with calls being answered by trained clinical staff at all times. Individuals who are approaching or experiencing a mental health and addiction crisis will be served by Bridgeway’s PESS program in Somerset County. Bridgeway will offer a strong community-based, mobile outreach service that will readily deliver crisis intervention services in a variety of community settings. The goal will be to relieve an individual’s immediate distress and prevent psychiatric hospitalization. In the event that the screening service finds that an individual’s symptoms indicate the need for involuntary mental health care Bridgeway will be authorized to initiate involuntary commitment proceedings.

Bridgeway believes that hospital based psychiatric emergency services are poised to evolve to include the provision of recovery oriented options of emergency care beyond the traditional emergency room based/medical model approach. Bridgeway has built a 49 year history of results on the foundational belief that persons with a mental illness can achieve wellness and recovery. Bridgeway CEO, Cory Storch explains “Many people who are referred to psychiatric emergency screening services are overwhelmed, frightened, in pain, confused, and disconnected from themselves and their reference points that connect them to what is familiar and confirming. Bridgeway’s person-first and recovery oriented approach along with the “living room” site model will enhance engagement, and encourage people to embrace recovery oriented services.”

Bridgeway Rehabilitation Services, Inc. is recognized as a state-wide leader in psychiatric rehabilitation services. Bridgeway is a nonprofit mental health services organization whose mission is to assist those central and northern New Jersey residents who have chronic and persistent mental disabilities and have the potential to recover, to be self-sufficient, to live in and contribute to their communities. Bridgeway services are available in 11 central and northern New Jersey counties. www.bridgewayrehab.org

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