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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

West Central Behavioral Health Achieves Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) Status

Milestone Enhances Access to Comprehensive Mental Health and Substance Use Services Across the Community

Lebanon, NH – April 28, 2025 – West Central Behavioral Health is proud to announce its official designation as a New Hampshire State Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC), marking a significant step forward in its mission to provide accessible, high-quality mental health and substance use treatment to individuals and families throughout the community.

This certification reflects West Central's commitment to providing comprehensive, person-centered, trauma-informed care that includes all individuals, regardless of their ability to pay. As an organization entering its fifth decade, the organization provides a broad range of coordinated services, including 24/7 crisis response, outpatient mental health, primary care screening, and enhanced care coordination with hospitals, primary care, and social service providers.

"This certification is a testament to the incredible work of our team and our unwavering dedication to meeting the mental health needs of our community," said Lori Shibinette, CEO at West Central. "Being recognized as a CCBHC allows us to build on our existing services and reach even more people with the care they deserve, when and where they need it most."

The CCBHC model is a national initiative designed to transform mental health care delivery by improving access, reducing wait times, integrating care, and ensuring sustainability through consistent funding. Through this model, West Central will now be able to serve more individuals, including those who are uninsured or underinsured, without compromising quality or continuity of care. The agency will implement the model in phases beginning on July 1.

"This is more than just a certification," added Stephanie Bergeron, CCBHC Project Director. "It's a promise to our community that no one will fall through the cracks."

With this designation, West Central Behavioral Health joins over 500 CCBH's across 48 states, including The Mental Health Center of Greater Manchester and Greater Nashua Mental Health here in NH – in reaching over 3 million people across the country. This growing movement of behavioral health providers is working to reshape the future of mental health and substance use treatment.

For more information about West Central and the services offered as a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic, please visit wcbh.org or contact Stephanie Bergeron, CCBHC Project Director, sbergeron@wcbh.org

West Central Behavioral Health is the community mental health center for the Upper Valley and Sullivan County regions. It ensures access to advanced counseling, treatment, and support for people of all ages and income levels. With locations in Claremont, Lebanon, and Newport, NH, West Central serves adults, families, and children. Mobile crisis response services may be accessed via the New Hampshire Rapid Response Access Point. Learn more online at wcbh.org.

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