



Perception Programs to Opens New PATH Counseling Center

Perception Programs, Inc. (PPI) today announces the opening of their new PATH Counseling Center at 842 Main Street in Willimantic. All non-residential programs are now located at this site to include the new *PATH Student and Family Counseling Center* which provides behavioral health services to those ages 5-23 and their families.

“In the over fifty years that PPI has been providing services to the Windham community we have aimed to ensure that our services align with both with our mission and the needs of those we serve,” said Interim CEO, Jeffery DiGirolamo. “The opening of this new location will reduce barriers to care by providing a central point of access to our continuum of service and will increase our capacity to meet the ever-growing needs of students, children and their families in our community.”

Current statistics on the state of behavioral health care needs and access for children and adolescents is staggering. According to the 2019-2020 National Survey of Children’s Health, 22.6 percent of children aged 3-17 have experienced a mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral health problem. Compounding these challenges is the limited access that children in rural areas face with only 30% of highly rural counties having at least one mental health facility to serve young people. More than 60 percent of Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA) in the U.S. are in rural areas, representing over 36 million people - including children and adolescents - without adequate access to mental health care providers.

The opening of the PATH Student and Family Center was the vision of Mr. DiGirolamo and he notes it as the “greatest achievement of his career”. PPI will be celebrating the Grand Opening on 6/22/23. The public is encouraged to visit between 5:30-7p.

Perception Programs was founded in 1970 and currently operates eighteen programs addressing the behavioral health care, medication assisted therapy, residential housing, recovery, risk reduction and case management needs of those in Windham and Tolland County. Referrals and/or inquiries regarding services can be made by calling (860) 450-0151.

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