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Collaborative Releases Recommendations to Tackle Children’s Mental Health Challenges in Greater Racine

RACINE, Wis. (September 16, 2014) – The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread today announced the release of the Racine Collaborative for Children’s Mental Health’s set of recommendations to directly confront the barriers to helping children, youth, young adults and their families with mental health needs in Greater Racine.

The recommendations will be unveiled at a community briefing today at 5:15 p.m. CST/6:15 p.m. EST. For a link to the live, listen-only webcast [click here](#).

Over the past three years, the Racine Collaborative, along with the Johnson Foundation, has worked to create a comprehensive plan for tackling system shortfalls and increasing the number of mentally healthy children in Racine. Informed by the Foundation’s [Top of Mind](#) research, the Collaborative has invested time, intellect and resources in intensive study, gathering formal and informal data, listening to community members, meeting with experts and searching for successful models from across the nation.

“Research shows us that 20 percent of all children and youth have a diagnosable mental health disorder and 80 percent of them do not receive the treatment they need,” said Ashley Staeck, Senior Community Program Associate at The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread. “Good mental health is essential to living a fulfilling and productive life. The consequences of leaving mental health issues undetected and untreated can compromise not only a child’s future, but also a community’s vitality.”

The set of solutions being released today is the product of the Racine Collaborative for Children’s Mental Health, a community group that was first convened at The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread in September 2012. The Collaborative brings together every corner of the community to identify the challenges and pathways forward for delivering quality, coordinated and comprehensive support services for children’s mental health.

Collaborative members represent a wide variety of professional backgrounds and include representatives from Greater Racine’s health systems and care providers, social service agencies, justice and court systems, school district, community institutions, and practitioners, among many others.

“Having a diverse group of committed community leaders and individuals with different perspectives on this issue has been integral in ensuring we tackle children’s mental health challenges in a coordinated way,” Staeck explained. “Mental health experts, state and community leaders, parents, families, friends and youth all play a critical role in improving outcomes for children struggling with mental health challenges, and we are

grateful to have worked with such a terrific group of partners on this important initiative.”

For more information on the Racine Collaborative for Children’s Mental Health, visit www.healthykidsracine.org.

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The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread is dedicated to serving as a catalyst for change by bringing together leading thinkers and inspiring new solutions on major environmental and regional issues. For additional information or to learn more about The Johnson Foundation at Wingspread, please visit www.johnsonfdn.org.