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For Immediate Release
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Contact: Michelle McElfresh, Grants Administrator
636-939-6200

**Mental Health and Substance Use Treatment Services Available for
Children and Their Families in St. Charles County**

The COVID-19 pandemic has potentially impacted almost every aspect of children's lives: development, learning, behavior, their families' economic security, protection from violence and abuse, and physical and mental health.

Mental health resources and substance use treatment services continue to be available for children and their families. Services are available at no-cost for St. Charles County residents, regardless of income or insurance status. "All of our direct service providers have adapted how they provide services given this pandemic," explained Bruce Sowatsky, Executive Director of the Community and Children's Resource Board, "Many agencies now provide mental health services virtually. If your family needs help related to this crisis or otherwise, they are ready to serve you safely and compassionately. Please reach out."

Residents are encouraged to contact Behavioral Health Response's 24/7 Youth Connection Hotline at 314-819-8802 or 1-844-985-8282, by texting BHEARD to 31658, or chat online at www.bhrstl.com. This local helpline is staffed by mental health professionals 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

In addition, residents are encouraged to reach out to regional and national resources:

- Compass Health Network Disaster Hotline: 1-888-237-4567
- St. Louis Crisis Nursery Helpline: 314-768-3201
- Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition: 1-800-FOSTER-3
- National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 1-800-273-8255

The Community and Children's Resource Board (CCRB) oversees the administration, allocation and distribution of the *Community Children's Service Fund*, a 1/8 cent sales tax for mental health services and substance use treatment services for St. Charles County children and teens, up to 19 years of age. Funds are awarded to local agencies providing services for St. Charles County children. In addition to its responsibilities of administering funds, the CCRB also oversees local funding for the Missouri Children's Trust Fund License Plate Program. For more information, call 636-939-6200 or visit www.stcharlescountykids.org.

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