



EMBARGOED UNTIL:
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Southern Kentucky's Largest Behavioral Healthcare Organizations, LifeSkills, Inc. and Pennyroyal Center, Announce Merger

Together, the organizations will form a stronger network to expand and grow services and programs in 18 counties; Combined staff of 875 will remain in place to continue serving over 26,000 individuals and families in the region

Bowling Green, KY/Hopkinsville, KY -- LifeSkills, Inc. (LifeSkills) and Pennyroyal Center, the largest behavioral healthcare organizations in Southern Kentucky have announced that they will merge as of July 1, 2019. The merger will create one of the largest behavioral health organizations in Kentucky. Together, the combined entity will form a strong network to better advocate and care for its patients, continue to expand and grow its services and programs for clients and provide a sustainable network to attract and retain top clinicians and staff.

The merged entity will total over 875 employees, and 26 service locations, all of which will remain in operation. The combined entity will have a total budget of just over \$95 million and will continue to operate under the LifeSkills and Pennyroyal Center names in their respective markets.

"The Pennyroyal Center was created to serve our most vulnerable people across the region," said Bonnie Lynch, Pennyroyal Center Board Chair. "Our mission as a vital social safety net remains unchanged. Over the last two years, Pennyroyal Center and LifeSkills have discussed ways to strengthen our capacity to better serve our clients, particularly in the face of healthcare uncertainty. Our collective teams will continue to deliver first-class behavioral health services to the entire 18-county region."

"LifeSkills and Pennyroyal Center share similar missions and the same steadfast commitment to the communities we serve," continued Joe Dan Beavers, CEO of LifeSkills. "Our agencies have a long history of working together and given the changes in the healthcare industry, we know that we are stronger together."

Eric Embry, CEO of Pennyroyal Center added, “We believe this partnership strategically solidifies our ability to continue delivering high quality services to the most vulnerable individuals in the communities we serve. I’m looking forward to fulfilling our mission as a safety net provider with LifeSkills as a partner.”

“We are all dedicated to the original design and spirit of the community mental health center system in the Commonwealth,” said Jason McKinney, LifeSkills Board Chair. “It is our responsibility to make certain these critical, safety net services are always available to the communities we serve. This merger helps to ensure we can continue that commitment.”

The combined entities will continue to operate in their respective geographic regions. Together, they will serve the following counties and will provide the impact below:

- 18 Counties served: Caldwell, Christian, Crittenden, Lyon, Hopkins, Muhlenberg, Todd, Trigg, Allen, Barren, Butler, Hart, Edmonson, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson and Warren
- 875 total employees; including 91 licensed clinicians
- 26 service locations
- 189 addiction treatment beds and 32 crisis treatment beds
- 50+ services and programs
- Provide care to over 26,000 individuals and families each year
- \$95 million in total annual revenue

Over the coming weeks, both organizations will operate as normal and will continue to provide service without interruption. The two agencies have pledged to keep their communities and stakeholders informed as this process continues.

For more information, please visit www.lifeskills.com or www.pennyroyalcenter.org.

About LifeSkills, Inc.

LifeSkills has been a part of the community for the last 50 years. As a non-profit, community mental health center, LifeSkills supports people who experience mental illness, addictions and developmental disabilities as they build meaningful and independent lives. With the widest array of services for both adults and children in south central Kentucky, LifeSkills gives you greater choice, easy access and proven quality. When it comes to your health, experience matters.

About Pennyroyal Center

The Pennyroyal Center was established on February 15, 1966 as a non-profit, community mental health center. From its inception, Pennyroyal Center has been and continues to be known as the standard of excellence in the fulfillment of its mission to plan and provide person-centered services in behavioral health, substance use, and developmental and intellectual disabilities for all citizens within our region.

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