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Area Healthcare Organizations Join Forces to Better Identify Cardiac Problems

Golden LivingCenter – Rochester West Donates \$1,000 to Purchase Defibrillators

Rochester, Minn. – Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center and Golden LivingCenter – Rochester West are teaming up to improve identification and treatment of cardiac issues for patients with substance use disorders. Golden LivingCenter – Rochester West is donating \$1,000 to help Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center purchase two automated external defibrillators, or AEDs.

A check presentation will be held at Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center on Wednesday, August 20 at 1:30 p.m.

“We felt these funds could positively impact the ability of both Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center and our community to provide swift and appropriate treatment,” said Carey Huebert, executive director, Golden LivingCenter – Rochester West. “The use of defibrillators is a proven method to help save lives.”

In the past six months, Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center has sent numerous clients to local emergency rooms for treatment of chest pains and other health-related symptoms. Time is a critical factor with survival rates, so clinical staff investigated ways to decrease these incidents and determined the use of AEDs would help staff identify cardiac problems and improve their ability to prepare patients for paramedics.

AEDs can automatically interpret a patient’s heart rhythm and, if necessary, deliver a potentially life-saving shock.

“This is a great example of two healthcare-oriented organizations working together to improve patient care in our community”, said Lynn Skinner, board president for Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center. “We are very grateful to Golden LivingCenter – Rochester West for their generous contribution.”

According to the American Heart Association, more than 160,000 Americans suffer sudden cardiac arrest outside a hospital setting each year. Substance use disorders such as excessive drinking can amplify this risk through side effects like high blood pressure that damages the heart muscle.

About Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center

Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center enhances the quality of life for residents in southeastern Minnesota by serving as a community resource for the understanding and treatment of behavioral health and substance use disorders. The organization collaborates with government agencies, schools, non-profit groups and others to provide programs dedicated to improving the mental health of adults, adolescents and children. Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center is a private, non-profit organization serving Olmsted and Fillmore counties. For more information, visit our Web site at www.zumbromhc.org or call 507-289-2089.

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