May 3, 2024

Oregon Council for Behavioral Health
15 82nd Dr. Suite 20
Gladstone, OR 97027

Dear OCBH Committee Members,

The availability of evidence-based programs, services, and resources to address the substance use disorder epidemic, particularly in rural areas, is critical. In 2019, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) established three Rural Centers of Excellence (RCOE) to provide support and build the evidence base around effective programs to address morbidity and mortality of SUD. The RCOEs are: The Rural Center of Excellence on SUD Prevention at the University of Rochester, the Rural Center of Excellence on SUD Treatment at the University of Vermont, and the Rural Center of Excellence on SUD Recovery at Fletcher Group.

The three RCOEs have developed a website, the Rural SUD Info Center, that serves as a clearinghouse for SUD related resources for rural communities, spanning prevention, treatment, and recovery. Resources are free to access. Along with resources, the Rural SUD Info Center offers visitors the ability to connect with the RCOEs for technical assistance related to best practices and support for SUD prevention, treatment, and recovery. The Rural SUD Info Center is expected to launch in late June 2024.

We would like to include the National Council for Mental Wellbeing in our email distribution list for the launch announcement. We seek to include the National Council state level organizations in this distribution list, if possible. We will provide a launch announcement document that may be used for distribution.

Thank you,

Dave Johnson, MSW, ACSW

Chief Executive Officer
Fletcher Group, Inc.
djohnson@fletchergroup.org