

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Vera French Community Mental Health Center Welcomes a New Chief Executive Officer

DAVENPORT, IA– Vera French Community Mental Health Center is pleased to announce that the Board of Directors has appointed Richard Whitaker as the organization’s new Chief Executive Officer.



Dr. Whitaker joined the Vera French team on January 23, 2017. His major responsibilities include planning, execution, and oversight of the three Vera French non-profit corporations – Vera French Community Mental Health Center, Vera French Housing, and the Vera French Foundation.

With over 20 years in clinical and administrative leadership positions in healthcare organizations in Nebraska and then Indiana, Dr. Whitaker brings a wealth of experience to the CEO position and looks forward to becoming actively involved in the community.

“Vera French Community Mental Health Center has been a mainstay in the community since its early beginnings in 1949, and its future is brighter than ever,” Rich stated. “I’m thrilled to be working with such a dedicated, experienced Board of Directors, and I’m in awe at the amazing achievements of our qualified, professional staff. Every day, their consistent contributions to the work of behavioral health treatment and support make a measurable difference in the lives of people who count on their expertise. Scott County is a wonderful place to live, and my family and I are excited to come back to the Quad Cities, where I served as a doctoral intern at the Marriage & Family Counseling Service in Rock Island over 20 years ago. It’s great to again be a part of such a wonderful community.”

Vera French Center Board President, Jeff Lockwood, expressed confidence in Dr. Whitaker’s ability to build on the Vera French legacy of excellence and inspire the Center’s 210-plus professional staff of highly qualified clinicians and specialists to serve the ever-increasing needs of the community. “After an exhaustive and diligent search, we are extremely pleased to have found Rich and offer him the role of CEO of Vera French Community Mental Health Center. Rich exemplifies many of the leadership qualities for which we have been searching, and we have every confidence in his ability to continue to fulfill the mission of Vera French, which is to enhance the mental health of all in our community by providing quality, accessible, and comprehensive care.”

With Dr. Whitaker’s employment background and educational training in Marriage & Family Therapy from Brigham Young University, Vera French will be moving forward in strategic planning initiatives in 2017. His leadership and expertise in these areas will help guide us into the future, and we are truly excited to have Rich join the Vera French team.

About Vera French Community Mental Health Center:

Vera French Community Mental Health Center provides quality, accessible and comprehensive mental health services for all in the Quad Cities community. Through the Center’s clinical and community outreach services, our staff assists in providing the highest quality services to improve the lives of persons affected by mental illness.

A variety of services are provided including an outpatient clinic with prescriber and nursing services as well as individual and group therapy sessions, a School Based Therapy program within all four Scott County school districts, residential care in multiple facility and community based settings, an Integrated Health Home program, a program providing opportunities for socialization at the Carol Center, a Homeless Outreach program, a Peer Services program, and Rick’s House of Hope offering individual and group services for grieving and traumatized youth. Education, support and individual and group supported community living services are also provided. For more information, please visit <http://www.verafrenchmhc.org>.