



ERIE COUNTY DEPT. OF MENTAL HEALTH (ECDMH)

National County Government Month (NCGM), held each April, is an annual celebration of county government. #NCGM

Over the next few weeks, we will be sharing current projects and work the Department is involved in within our community.

ECDMH IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE OPENING OF THE KIRSTEN VINCENT RESPITE & RECOVERY CENTER ON APRIL 17, 2023!

The **Kirsten Vincent Respite & Recovery Center** is having a grand ribbon cutting today, April 11, 2023, at 1pm and **will open its doors on April 17th**. It's located at **111 Maple Street, Buffalo, NY in the Fruit Belt neighborhood**, for any adult (18 years and older) who may be struggling. It will be a **one-stop center** to treat a variety of mental illnesses. **It will be a safe haven for people experiencing a mental health crisis where they can plan and begin their recovery.**

The center is named in honor of Dr. Kirsten Vincent, who died suddenly in 2021. She had a vision for an all-inclusive mental health facility that provided many levels of care. This is a first-of-its kind center offering support across the mental healthcare spectrum, providing an alternative option to a hospital.

Kirsten Vincent Respite & Recovery Center will offer **four levels of service**, geared toward eliminating the need to transport people across the city in times of crisis and allowing individuals to move between the facility's services as needed. The aim is to get people the support they need in the appropriate setting and, in turn, avoid unnecessary trips to overcrowded and overwhelmed emergency departments.

- ❖ **Recovery Options Made Easy (ROME)** will have **two levels of respite at the center**, allowing individuals – who are at least 18 years old – who need a space to regroup and recover to stay up to 28 days while still having the ability to leave and go to work, attend medical appointments or take care of other responsibilities.

- The short-term crisis respite, called **Refreshing Waters**, is an existing model running in Erie County that is moving to the center. The short-term crisis respite is a self-refer recovery for people who identify that they are experiencing a crisis. It has four beds and offers 24-hour peer-staffed support in a home-like setting.
 - The intensive crisis respite, called **Restful Rivers**, provides mental health support and medication management for people experiencing other health problems. It will have eight beds and 24-hour peer support, as well. Further, the intensive crisis respite will have 24-hour nurse coverage, as well as psychiatric support and additional components over the short-term crisis respite.
- ❖ There is the **Renewal Center**, an existing program run by Mental Health Peer Connection, which is part of **Western New York Independent Living**. The Renewal Center, which is based on a living room model, is relocating from its current home at 327 Elm St. to the Kirsten Vincent Center and will keep its **daily walk-in hours of 3pm to 11 p.m.** The Renewal Center has six staff members rotating in and out that will include: a program manager, two part-time registered nurses and three peer-support specialists.
- ❖ Rounding out the model of the Vincent Center, **Spectrum Health Clinical Engagement Program**, will provide education, encouragement and counseling services to adults, including crisis intervention and crisis assessment. They have four offices in the new facility and will be able to serve community members, as well as those who might be staying in the respite programs. There will be up to five crisis counselors from Spectrum Health's Buffalo H.O.P.E. Program who can provide free, anonymous, and confidential emotional support and will also be able to connect people with other Spectrum Health services as needed. Spectrum Health staff will be at the center **daily from 8am to 4pm**, *hours will be assessed and may change depending on community need.*

The ECDMH has supported this extraordinary idea from inception, assisted in the planning stages, facilitated the collaboration of the 3 agencies involved in this dynamic partnership, and has provided the funding for build out and start up costs. We are elated to see this project ready to open and serve the community!

Posted on April 11, 2023