



MONTICELLO COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #25

ADAM CLAPP

Superintendent of Schools

June 14, 2024

To Whom It May Concern:

The Center, located in Monticello, Illinois, offers a wide variety of mental health programs, substance abuse treatment, and developmental supportive services for the Monticello community and all of Piatt County. Mental health services remain at the forefront of essential support for the citizens of Piatt County, the state of Illinois, and the entire United States. The Center serves over 500 unique individuals from 13 different counties in Central Illinois.

The Center provides outpatient services for individuals, couples, families, and groups through counseling, and employs a consulting psychiatrist. The 24-Hour Crisis Line is available 24/7 to offer phone or onsite counseling and appropriate referrals for other supportive services. In a proactive effort, The Center partners with community groups, churches, and schools to increase awareness of alcohol and drug abuse, depression, anxiety, and suicide. The Center has proven to be a valuable asset to Monticello Schools in both prevention and times of crisis.

In terms of developmental services, The Center offers Day Services that promote independence for individuals over 18 with developmental disabilities, providing tailored classrooms for specific needs and levels of functioning. Additionally, The Center provides vocational services for individuals 18 and older who are no longer in high school, including job skill development to help individuals gain and maintain employment. Job coaching is also available to promote on-the-job training and employment success.

Establishing a "708 Board" or "Community Mental Health Board" would enhance the planning and funding of mental health, developmental disability, and substance abuse services, especially as operational costs increase. The 708 Board would ensure that The Center continues to provide high-quality services locally to Monticello and Piatt County residents, which is a source of community pride.

Sincerely,

Adam Clapp

Superintendent of Schools

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