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Two Community Health Leaders Unite to Advance Whole-Person Care

Combined Organization to Expand Integrated Behavioral Health & Primary Care Services

Lancaster, OH – January 5, 2026 – Integrated Services for Behavioral Health (ISBH) and Fairfield Community Health Center (FCHC) today announced that their boards have approved a plan to unite the two organizations under a single leadership structure, effective January 1, 2026. The collaboration represents a significant step toward expanding integrated services that address both behavioral and physical health needs, while ensuring greater access to whole-person care for the community. Amid rising demand for comprehensive, coordinated care, the organizations will join forces to build a stronger, more sustainable model designed to meet the full spectrum of patient needs. Integrated Services for Behavioral Health, known for providing community mental health, substance use disorder treatment, and supportive housing programs across Southeast and Central Ohio, will merge its operations with Fairfield Community Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center located in Lancaster, Ohio. “This partnership is about building a healthier future for our community,” said Samantha Shafer, President and CEO of ISBH, who will assume leadership of the combined organization. “By bringing together behavioral health, substance use disorder treatment, and primary care, alongside our robust home and community-based programming, we can truly treat the whole person. This is the natural next evolution of our growth, and one that aligns with what our clients, families, and partners have told us they need.”

FCHC has built a strong reputation for providing high-quality primary care, behavioral health, women’s health, pediatric care and chronic disease management services. Lisa Evangelista, longtime Chief Executive Officer of Fairfield Community Health Center, will retire following more than 13 years of service. She will remain in a consultative role throughout the transition period. “It has been the honor of my life to serve FCHC and the families who depend on us,” Evangelista said. “As I prepare for retirement, I am deeply encouraged by what this partnership will mean. Our patients deserve seamless, coordinated care, and care that recognizes that mental health and physical health are all connected. I can’t imagine a better leader than Samantha to carry this mission forward.”

Beginning in January 2026, Shafer, who resides in Lancaster, will serve as CEO of the combined organization. The merged entity will maintain all existing services and locations, and there will be no interruptions in care. “Our teams share a vision for compassionate, accessible, whole-person care,” Shafer said. “This partnership allows ISBH to grow in new ways and gives FCHC the opportunity to offer services it has long aspired to provide. Most importantly, it ensures our communities have what they need to live healthy, stable, and hopeful lives.”

The organization anticipates an integrated workforce of 900 employees, reaching over 17,000 individuals and families annually.

About Fairfield Community Health Center

Fairfield Community Health Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in Lancaster, Ohio, committed to ensuring that everyone in our community has access to quality, affordable healthcare services. FCHC provides primary care, pediatric care, women’s health screenings, and behavioral health services. FCHC also offers an in-house pharmacy for all members of the community, along with a walk-in clinic for current patients or those seeking to establish care. For more information, visit www.fchc.org

About Integrated Services for Behavioral Health

Integrated Services for Behavioral Health (ISBH) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive behavioral health and social services across 24 counties in southeastern and central Ohio. Our mission is to promote well-being and recovery through a range of integrated services that address mental health, addiction, housing, and community support needs. Serving over 15,000 individuals annually, ISBH is committed to delivering person-centered care that strengthens families, empowers communities, and improves quality of life for those we serve. For more information, visit www.isbh.org

Resources: Images can be used for release at the following link: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Kt0kMJS5txy-P2i9yGMRFTDfXqaUpX4A?usp=drive_link

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