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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bear River Health: Treatment Leaders Amid COVID-19

Bear River Health takes additional precautions to protect staff and clients

Boyer Falls, Michigan -- On the forefront of substance abuse treatment and prevention, Bear River Health (BRH) will continue to offer a safe treatment environment for substance abuse disorder. Drug overdose deaths continue to rise in the United States. From 1999 to 2017, more than 702,000 people died from a drug overdose. In 2017 alone, more than 70,000 people have died from a drug overdose. Of those deaths, almost 68% involved prescription or illicit opioid use. Overdose is a leading cause of injury-related death in the United States.

To put this issue into perspective, in 2017 there were 2,033 overdose deaths involving opioids in Michigan. Michigan's rate of 21.2 deaths per 100,000 people is higher than the national rate of 14.6 deaths per 100,000 people. Currently, the COVID-19 virus has touched less than 5,000 people directly in America, with under 100 fatalities. BRH is intently focused on preparedness efforts, and is committed to continue to service clients during this time of crisis.

Safety is the number one interest. Daniel Hartman, Executive Director of Bear River Health states, "Client and staff safety is my number one priority. This means that I desire each person to remain healthy, and that starts with prevention and hygiene."

Paving the way in substance abuse prevention and treatment, Bear River Health will proceed with treatment and service as usual. The dedicated infection prevention experts have been proactive in planning and responding to the COVID-19 outbreak, and continues to implement actions to prevent the spread of infection. These measures include rigorous screening, sanitation, and hygiene practices. These infection control measures are now a permanent part of BRH culture, not only to address COVID-19, but also flu and colds.

The nationwide drug and alcohol epidemic must be treated even in the face of a potential threat of illness. We will continue to save lives and foster growth.

Bear River Health urges everyone to take extra precautionary measures to ensure the safety of themselves and loved ones. With this in mind, we recommend washing hands thoroughly for at least twenty seconds, and using hand sanitizer frequently. Instead of shaking hands, consider an elbow bump.

Bear River Health prioritizes safety while continuing their mission of saving lives and fostering growth.

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SOURCES:

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/index.html>

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<https://www.drugabuse.gov/opioid-summaries-by-state/michigan-opioid-summar>