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Michael R. Pence
Governor

Jerome M. Adams, MD, MPH
State Health Commissioner

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Addiction Treatment a Critical Component of HIV Outbreak Response

INDIANAPOLIS - Addiction treatment services are just one of the many important tools being used in the comprehensive response to the Southeastern Indiana HIV Outbreak.

Since the outbreak response began, the Indiana State Department of Health has been working closely with LifeSpring Mental Health Services, the State-designated Community Mental Health Center for Scott County. LifeSpring provides mental health services in southern Indiana, including education, prevention, information, assessment, intervention, and treatment.

This week, LifeSpring confirmed that 22 clients had been admitted into inpatient care during 2015. This is a significant increase in services being utilized in the area. In all of 2014, only 16 clients from Scott County were admitted for inpatient treatment through LifeSpring. Currently, everyone who has requested inpatient treatment has received a scheduled start date.

"The availability of substance abuse treatment is critical to stopping the spread of HIV and helping people get their lives back on track in Southeastern Indiana," said State Health Commissioner Jerome Adams, M.D., M.P.H. "Each person has to decide on his or her own to seek treatment, but it's our job to ensure that services are available when they are ready."

Inpatient versus other types of care isn't a testament to the degree of illness, however. Treatment is a personal choice, and treatment plans are individual as the client.

“We know that treatment works, but it’s important to stress that treatment doesn't have to look the same from everyone,” said Beth Keeney, Vice President of Development & Grants with LifeSpring Health Systems. “We've heard repeatedly that people are nervous about inpatient treatment, which isn't the only option. If anyone is even thinking about treatment, we'd like to encourage them to call us, meet us and discuss what program would be the best fit for them.”

While inpatient clients stay with the treatment facility until their treatment is complete, some clients may not be ready for that choice. In some cases, they are not ready for that level of commitment or treatment. In other cases, family circumstances make inpatient treatment difficult or impossible. For those, outpatient treatment may be the best choice.

Clients participating in outpatient services complete a comprehensive assessment with a therapist. This looks at their usage, as well as other circumstances that may point to other health concerns that should be addressed. Together, the therapist and client tailor a treatment plan that will meet the individual goals of the client.

LifeSpring services are currently embedded in the Austin Community Outreach Center’s One-Stop Shop. Residents interested in discussing addiction treatment may contact the One-Stop Shop at (317) 605-1480 or call LifeSpring Mental Health Services at (812) 752-2837.

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