

Unison Behavioral Health Group Expands Services Proud to be the Newest Neighbor in the Heart of the City

Unison Behavioral Health Group stepped up in the midst of crisis to meet the needs of Toledo youth when Connecting Point closed in 2009. Concerns raced throughout the community about the future of behavioral health and substance abuse treatment for youth in Toledo, and, Unison took the steps to ensure local youth and their families would not fall through the cracks.

In February 2009, Unison launched an alcohol and substance abuse treatment program for youth ages 11-18. Since the inception of this program, more than 100 youth have been served. The number of youth in our community who are dually diagnosed – the presence of a substance abuse disorder and mental health disorder – is on the rise. According to Dr. Larry E. Hamme, Unison’s Chief Clinical Officer, “75% of the youth currently served by Unison’s programs are dually diagnosed.”

The rapid growth of the program was putting a crunch on space at the agency’s 1425 Starr Avenue location. Soon, executives at Unison began to explore options to move the program to another space. They heard the cry from Lucas County Juvenile Court officials, Lucas County Children Services, community physicians and other behavioral healthcare providers to situate themselves near downtown – providing ease of access for youth and their families who were in desperate need of behavioral health and substance abuse services.

Unison’s Board of Trustees understood the importance of locating additional services downtown and began exploring the possibility of purchasing the vacant Connecting Point facility. “While we faced our own budget crunch, we knew we had to find a way to serve more of these youth,” says Bridget Root, Unison’s Board President. “It was an easy decision to move forward with the purchase of the Connecting Point building.”

Nearly one year later, Unison Behavioral Health Group at 1212 Cherry Street is ready to open its doors for services. Terry Glazer, CEO of United North says, “We are excited that an empty building on a major corridor in our

neighborhood has been renovated. Most importantly, Unison will make available much needed services for our youth and will be a great partner in our efforts to work with the community.”

David Schlaudecker, Interim Executive Director and Chair of the Mental Health and Recovery Services Board (MHR SB) of Lucas County adds, “The MHR SB applauds Unison’s commitment to the behavioral health and substance abuse needs of our community and the opening of their 1212 Cherry Street location.”

Programs slated to be offered at Unison’s 1212 Cherry Street location for adults, children and adolescents include: diagnostic assessments, individual and family therapy, alcohol and substance abuse treatment and medication management.