

HEALTHCARE

R.I. MENTAL ILLNESS NONPROFIT ACQUIRES HARBOR HOUSE

By Patricia Daddona
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LINCOLN – Fellowship Health Resources Inc. has acquired Harbor House of Providence, a “clubhouse” for people recovering from mental illness that was in danger of closing due to lack of funding.

Fellowship Health Resources is a Lincoln-based nonprofit operating in seven states and dedicated to improving the lives of people with mental illness and addition disorders.

“With FHR’s oversight, Harbor House will be able to continue its important mission, which is vital to the well-being of its clubhouse members and all Rhode Islanders recovering from mental illness,” said Fellowship Health Resources President and CEO Debra M. Paul. “This partnership allows FHR to leverage our clubhouse expertise by adding Harbor House to our network of recovery-oriented services in Rhode Island.”

The transfer of ownership and management was completed at a board of directors meeting on Wednesday and will go into effect July 1.

Started by parents who wanted a safe place for family members struggling with mental illness, Harbor House has a 10-year history but officially opened on Bassett Street three and a half years ago.

Designed with a peer-recovery style program, Harbor House is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members divide up work at daily meetings and complete tasks ranging from administrative duties to preparing lunch.

The clubhouse is also a place to work on employment skills and get help with housing, education and entitlements. Social hours are held on Saturdays.

“With four clubhouses in the state of Massachusetts – located in Attleboro, Falmouth, New Bedford and Fall River – FHR has extensive experience with the clubhouse model of service,” said Kristen Guilfoyle, the Fellowship’s regional director in Rhode Island. “We are pleased to expand these services to the state of Rhode Island.”

Besides Rhode Island and Massachusetts, Fellowship Health Resources operates programs in Delaware, Maine, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia.