



# MUNICIPALITY PRINCETON

400 Witherspoon Street  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
(609) 924-4141

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Release Date: September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Contact: Jeffrey C. Grosser - [jgrosser@princetonnj.gov](mailto:jgrosser@princetonnj.gov)

### ***The Municipality of Princeton is Excited to Announce a Partnership with Catholic Charities to Expand Mental Health and Addiction Services to More Residents***

Princeton, Mercer County, New Jersey – The Municipality of Princeton is excited to announce that, starting January of 2024, it will contract with a new behavioral health provider, Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton, to provide mental health and addiction services to the community. With this change comes the reorganization of some services previously shared with Corner House Behavioral Health, an organization with which the Municipality has had a close relationship for the past 50 years. This decision was made through a careful evaluation of the paradigm shift in behavioral health treatment toward the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) standard; while also considering other factors, such as the expressed need from the public for expanded mental health services within the Municipality.

After extensive research and re-evaluation of the program, the Municipality has determined that the market alternative, Catholic Charities, is better suited to deliver the same quality of care for a wider range of services to more Princeton residents than Corner House Behavioral Health. By directly connecting patients to the CCBHC network, whose activities are largely funded by federal and state grants and offer low-to-no-cost services, they will receive a more comprehensive and coordinated spectrum of care, beyond substance use and mental health. This transition demonstrates the Council's deep commitment to prudent oversight of taxpayer dollars, with a net savings of half a million dollars annually, while expanding and improving services for Princeton's most vulnerable residents.

Catholic Charities has been certified by the State of New Jersey as one of Mercer County's CCBHCs, which demonstrates that they meet an industry standard of best practices concerning the timeliness of care provision, the range of services provided, and access to 24/7 crisis services. Moreover, CCBHCs help people coordinate care across different systems, such as physical health care and social services. This ensures that patients receive holistic care quickly and do not need to navigate multiple care providers to meet their behavioral health needs. Tapping into the CCBHC network via Catholic Charities will allow Princeton to align its programs with cutting edge behavioral health best practices.

Our goal remains steadfast: to preserve and enhance mental health services for Princeton residents. The Municipality will continue to strengthen and support Corner House's Prevention platform by increasing the Corner House Prevention Team's youth programming in conjunction with programs

offered under Health and Human Services. Outreach to the vulnerable adolescent community will be increased and expanded.

The Municipality deeply appreciates the unwavering commitment and dedication of Corner House staff and affiliates over the years and looks forward to continuing this collaborative partnership. Princeton will be working closely with Catholic Charities and Corner House to ensure that there are no gaps in care for existing patients as this transition occurs.