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Wellness House, a Nonprofit Advancing Cancer Wellness, Achieves PSYPACT Certification

Now Able to Provide Support Group Counseling In States Beyond Illinois

Hinsdale, IL, March 16, 2023 – Wellness House, a nonprofit offering over 500 programs in comprehensive cancer wellness support, at no cost to participants, has received certification as a provider for the national Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact (PSYPACT), enabling the organization to serve participants and their loved ones affected by cancer in Chicagoland and beyond. This is important news as Special Emergency Orders due to COVID that previously allowed clinical teams to serve cancer-diagnosed participants out of state have now expired. PSYPACT is an interstate agreement allowing certified Psychologists to practice telehealth clinical work across state lines, with currently 32 states having passed legislation and engaged in the PSYPACT system and multiple other states in the process of legislation.

“This is a pivotal moment not only for us as an organization, but also for the cancer wellness industry as a whole,” says Wellness House Chief Executive Officer, Lisa Kolavennu. “Since the pandemic, we have taken intentional steps to build a culture of innovation where we are creating programs to drive cancer equity and better serve communities that are often overlooked in the cancer space, including men, people of color, and the LGBT+ community. With the momentum of telehealth and online programs, and now with this certification, we can expand our reach and provide access to cancer wellness support to more people who can benefit from our services.”

What this certification means for Wellness House participants who reside in one of the PSYPACT states is that in addition to having access to online nutrition, exercise, and stress management programs, they are now able to participate in live Wellness House Support Group Counseling sessions, which wasn't possible without a PSYPACT certification.

Support Group Counseling programs at Wellness House are available for both the cancer diagnosed individual as well as their families, and include LGBTQ+ with Cancer, Leukemia and Lymphoma, Head & Neck and Thyroid Cancers, Bladder and Melanoma, Strengthening Family Ties, and Networking Group for Bereaved Dads of Children and Teens.

The programs are facilitated by PSYPACT certified, Wellness House Senior Oncology Support Counselor, Michael Williams, Psy.D, who has been with the organization for nearly 30 years. Michael is a Licensed Clinical Psychologist with a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from Loyola University of Chicago, and a Doctorate degree from

the Illinois School of Professional Psychology. His clinical licensing allows him to remotely serve residents in 32 states, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and District of Columbia.

“This certification is about being able to touch the lives of more people who are impacted by cancer in a substantial and more meaningful way,” says Williams. “The Support Group Counseling program at Wellness House aims to create a safe and supportive environment that not only addresses the physical experience of cancer, but also helps those who come to us, at whatever stage they are in their cancer journey, to address their mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being, which enables them to experience self-compassion and to see themselves in their full wholeness.”

Anyone diagnosed, or caring for a loved one with cancer, who is interested in Wellness House support groups or counseling may contact Michael Williams to confirm their state has engaged in the PSYPACT effort. Michael will provide information or strategies for finding support to people whose state has not yet engaged in PSYPACT.

About Wellness House

Wellness House envisions a community where all people affected by cancer thrive, and has offered cancer wellness support, as a compliment to medical treatment, at no cost to participants, for nearly 33 years. With over 500 programs in nutrition, exercise, stress management, cancer information and education, child and family, and support group counseling Wellness House aims to educate, empower, and engage participants with a holistic approach to address their mental, physical, and spiritual well-being, throughout their cancer journey.

Media Contact:

Deb Kwiatk
Marketing Communications Manager
E-mail: Dkwiatk@wellnesshouse.org
Phone: 630.654.5103 or Cell 630.267.7171

Wellness House
131 North County Line Road
Hinsdale, IL 60521
Phone: (630) 323.5150
Web: www.wellnesshouse.org