

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 2, 2017

Vera French Community Mental Health Center to Celebrate Completion of their new 15 bed Residential Care Facility

Open House Scheduled for Thursday, March 9th at 3 p.m.

Davenport, IA – A ribbon cutting ceremony and open house has been scheduled at the new Vera French Sheridan Springs location, 5006 Sheridan Street in Davenport, for **Thursday, March 9th from 3-6:30 p.m.** Press is invited to attend.

The new 15-bed, 16,000 sq. ft. residential care facility is the result of Vera French's need to reduce the number of beds they have at their Pine Knoll facility by spreading out their services into two separate buildings, one being Sheridan Springs. The downsizing to smaller facilities is because of a federal rule requiring no more than 16 beds in a residential care facility for those with persistent mental illness. While some costs may increase as a result of the move from Pine Knoll, Vera French believes that residential treatment for Quad Citians with persistent mental illness is a vital component of the continuum of care and that these new care facilities will provide a more therapeutic environment for treatment.

Vera French CEO, Richard K. Whitaker, Ph.D., sees Sheridan Springs as an important step away from institutionalization and toward more community-based care. "The aim of community mental health is to provide treatment and services in the least restrictive and most natural setting possible. Thanks to the design efforts of our contractors and visionary direction from our Director of Residential Programs, Denise Beenk, LISW, Sheridan Springs offers people a comfortable place to live while receiving great behavioral healthcare. Fewer residents in the facility and placement based on level of need will allow staff to be even more focused on individual needs."

The construction and design team included Russell and Studio 483 Architects. For more information, please visit their websites at www.russellco.com and www.geredismer.com.

Vera French Community Mental Health Center works to enhance the mental health of all in our community by providing quality, accessible, and comprehensive care. Throughout its history, Vera French has grown in response to client needs and is the second largest mental health care provider in the state, serving over 10,000 individuals each year. To learn more, please visit their website at www.verafrenchmhc.org.

