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NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

**ONE IN FIVE MINDS CAMPAIGN MARKS ONE YEAR ANNIVERSARY
WITH FORUM ON MENTAL HEALTH CARE FUNDING FOR TEXAS CHILDREN**

Mental health care experts discuss evolving access to mental health care for children

SAN ANTONIO – A year ago, One in Five Minds began as an advocacy campaign to help eradicate the stigma of mental health disorders in children. It was a local effort in response to grim statistics: while one in five young people in the U.S. experience a mental, emotional or behavioral health disorder, 80 percent of them do not receive treatment, mainly due to stigma, a lack of insurance or lack of access to services.

Now, as the campaign marks a year of creating awareness for children’s mental health, organizers are hosting a forum to discuss the changing face of healthcare access and funding, along with the implications for families with children suffering from mental health disorders.

The moderator-led panel of leading experts in mental health care will address recent changes affecting access to mental health services for children, such as the legislation passed by Texas state lawmakers to restore previously cut funding for children’s mental health services, and Medicaid reform that could bring \$2 billion to Texas for healthcare delivery.

“There are tremendous opportunities to increase access to services through state and federal funding,” says Fred Hines, president and CEO of Clarity Child Guidance Center, the leading sponsor of the event and the One in Five Minds campaign. “Our goal with this event is to bring together top mental health care professionals to have a dialogue about where the needs are and how these resources might best be allocated.”

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The event, which is free and open to the public, takes place Tuesday February 25 from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Valero Energy Corporation Headquarters, One Valero Way. To RSVP please contact Liz Breitman at 210-447-6946 or by email at liz.breitman@claritycgc.org.

Justice Luz Elena D. Chapa of the Fourth Court of Appeals will deliver a keynote address. The panel will be moderated by Evan Smith, Editor in Chief and CEO of The Texas Tribune.

Panelists include some of the state's leading mental health care experts: Melissa Rowan, Healthcare Policy Director of Texas Council of Community Centers, an organization that facilitates policies and changes for mental health, intellectual disability and substance abuse services in Texas; John Theiss, Chair Elect, Mental Health America of Texas, the state's largest and longest-serving mental health education and advocacy group; and Stacy Wilson, Associate General Counsel and Mental Health Specialist, Texas Hospital Association, which represents hospitals and health systems in Texas.

In addition to the panel discussion, the event will also feature questions from the audience. NowCastSA will stream the event live online.

Since its launch in March 2013, the One in Five Minds campaign has created awareness for children's mental health issues through community events and by asking San Antonians to pledge their support to help eradicate the stigma involved in mental health disorders. So far the campaign has generated support from roughly 750 advocates, including a dozen local leaders such as Bexar County Judge Nelson Wolff, State Sen. Leticia Van De Putte and U.S. Representative Joaquin Castro.

Supporters can sign the pledge online by providing their name and email address. By signing the pledge, advocates resolve to learn more about the stigma and challenges involving children's mental health issues, to encourage others to speak openly and speak up about children's mental health disorders and to share information with their network of family and friends. For information on becoming an advocate, visit the campaign online at www.1in5minds.org.

"There is still hesitation and resistance to confront the reality that mental disorders are a significant health event among many children, so we are still asking for people to pledge their support," Hines says. "It's a way to learn more about the issue of children's mental health and to chip away at the stigma that prevents families from getting the treatment they need for their children."

One in Five Minds is sponsored by Clarity Child Guidance Center, the only non-profit treatment center in San Antonio specializing in children with serious mental and emotional problems. Clarity CGC operates the region's largest treatment center dedicated to children with mental illness.

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As a nonprofit, Clarity CGC aims to provide families greater access to children's mental health care regardless of their ability to pay. The clinic accepts Medicaid, CHIP and most private insurances. In addition, Clarity CGC provides financial help for families who otherwise couldn't afford these services.

Clarity CGC offers a wide range of mental health treatment programs through its facilities in San Antonio, including outpatient services, on-campus 24-hour acute care inpatient treatment, and on-campus day treatment. Last year, Clarity CGC provided treatment to nearly 8,000 kids ages 3-17 in Bexar County, through two facilities in the Medical Center. Clarity's care for children dates back to 1886.

Visit www.claritycgc.org to learn more.

ABOUT CLARITY CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER

Clarity Child Guidance Center (CGC) is the only nonprofit in South Texas providing a full continuum of mental health care to children 17 and under, including services for acute cases for children as young as three.

Clarity CGC offers the region's largest concentration of child and adolescent psychiatrists, with its onsite affiliation with Southwest Psychiatric Physicians. In addition, the center serves as a teaching hospital for The University of Texas Health Science Center San Antonio. Clarity CGC provides outpatient therapy for children and families, day treatment (where the child is at Clarity CGC during school hours and then returns home each evening) and acute inpatient hospitalization at its 52-bed hospital.

As a nonprofit, Clarity CGC serves children in need, regardless of their ability to pay, while bringing a multitude of services to children and families through its case managers as a United Way agency.

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