

NEWS RELEASE

Magellan Health Services of Arizona
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Magellan and Community Bridges open Access Point and Transition Point behavioral health facilities

Co-located facilities to serve as a “front door” to the public behavioral health system in the West Valley on a 24/7 basis

AVONDALE, Ariz. (September 7, 2011) – Magellan Health Services of Arizona, the Regional Behavioral Health Authority for central Arizona, and Community Bridges, Inc., a long-time provider of integrated behavioral health services in Arizona, today launched Access Point and Transition Point behavioral health facilities in the West Valley. Co-located at 824 N. 99th Avenue, Avondale, Ariz. 85323, these facilities provide intake, support and assessment services (Access Point) and limited-time residential services (Transition Point) for individuals experiencing mental health or substance abuse issues, 24 hours per day, seven days per week.

“The West Valley has experienced significant growth over the past decade, and until now lacked any 24/7 facilities other than hospital emergency rooms to address the needs of those with behavioral health issues,” said Richard Clarke, Ph.D., chief executive officer of Magellan Health Services of Arizona. “Add to this the pressure created by significant cuts to behavioral health services in central Arizona over the last four years, and the need for facilities like Access Point and Transition Point becomes clear.”

“Access Point and Transition Point are designed to bridge the gap in the public behavioral health system between inpatient and crisis services on one end of the spectrum and routine behavioral health care on the other,” said Dr. Frank Scarpati, president and chief executive officer of Community Bridges, Inc. “By providing early intervention, assessment and transition support, these facilities will ensure those who need services have the appropriate level of treatment and are not entering higher, more costly and restrictive levels of care when the higher level of care may not be necessary.”

Access Point will serve primarily as an entry point for transfers, walk-ins and drop-offs and will provide 24-hour triage, assessment, brief intervention, and transition support. Transition Point will provide stabilizing care for individuals who could benefit clinically from brief residential services for three to five days.

These facilities also will benefit the community as a whole in several ways. They will help reduce emergency room “wait time,” and increase emergency room availability to address true medical emergencies. In addition, they will free up costly and limited police, fire and EMT resources by giving West Valley first responders a conveniently located place to take those experiencing behavior health challenges.

Magellan and Community Bridges, Inc. are scheduled to open East Valley Access Point and Transition Point facilities by the end of 2011.

For more information about the West Valley Access Point and Transition Point facilities, please access: www.CommunityBridgesAz.org or call the Community Bridges 24/7 Access to Care line at 877-931-9142.

About Magellan Health Services of Arizona: Magellan Health Services of Arizona is the Regional Behavioral Health Authority for central Arizona, which includes all of Maricopa County and part of Pinal County. In this role, Magellan serves as a critical point of connection to the more than 80,000 individuals who have experienced life challenges as a result of mental illness and substance abuse. Magellan gives these individuals voice and choice to realize their desired outcomes and supports them with caring, unrivaled customer service that is sensitive to the diversity of our communities. For more information, visit www.MagellanofAZ.com or call Magellan of Arizona at (800) 564-5465, TTY (800) 424-9831. Information is available in English and Spanish.

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