



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Acadia Healthcare and The Jason Foundation Partner to Provide Free Crisis Support and Suicide Prevention Services in all Tennessee Schools

Counselors and school administrators dealing with suicide or other traumatic events can quickly access clinical guidance through expanded Crisis Support Team project

HENDERSONVILLE/FRANKLIN, TN – Acadia Healthcare, the nation’s leading provider of behavioral healthcare services, and The Jason Foundation, a national nonprofit focused on youth suicide awareness and prevention, have partnered to provide professional guidance and support services to assist schools in dealing with a crisis or traumatic event affecting the student body.

Through the [Crisis Support Team \(CST\) project](#), all Tennessee school leaders will have free access to a suite of resources and a team of professional clinicians who can offer insight into best practices and appropriate support services to manage a crisis event, such as a suicide attempt, death, or school violence incident.

“The Jason Foundation is an incredible nonprofit serving schools and communities in Tennessee and throughout the country,” said **Debbie Osteen, CEO of Acadia Healthcare**. “We have been fortunate to work with The Jason Foundation in Acadia facilities nationwide for many years, and have seen firsthand the exceptional services they provide to families, students, and schools. As we recognize National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, we are honored to support the expansion of the CST project to ensure schools across Tennessee have access to these critical resources.”

Clark Flatt, president of The Jason Foundation, said, “When tragedy strikes, school counselors, faculty, and administrators may be unsure of the best way to manage the situation and provide emotional support to students. In partnership with Acadia, we are grateful to have the opportunity to expand the CST project to schools statewide. Ensuring school counselors and officials have adequate support when navigating a traumatic event is a commonsense and meaningful initiative that can have a lasting impact on our communities.”

Founded in 1997, The Jason Foundation has provided free suicide awareness and prevention curriculums to over 9,000 schools and youth organizations across the nation. The Foundation also offers professional development training for educators, and in 2018 alone facilitated 200,000 trainings through its national network.

Acadia and The Jason Foundation have collaborated for six years to amplify its suicide awareness and prevention programming through Acadia’s regional offices in 40 states. The CST project was borne from this partnership and has been available to a small number of schools and youth organizations across the country since early 2019. This is the first statewide expansion of the CST project, which is the only national service of its kind.

Dr. Michael Genovese, chief medical officer of Acadia Healthcare, said, “The aftermath of any tragedy is an incredibly vulnerable time, especially for young people. School leaders are under tremendous pressure to take action and provide critical support in the wake of a crisis, but with rapidly changing clinical guidelines and evolving best practices, it can be hard to keep up with the latest recommendations. Having immediate access to the CST ensures schools have a place to turn for the expert guidance and direction necessary to more effectively manage a traumatic event.”

To learn more about the Crisis Support Team, visit www.jasonfoundation.com/cst.

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About Acadia

Acadia is a leading provider of behavioral healthcare services. At June 30, 2019, Acadia operated a network of 595 behavioral healthcare facilities with approximately 18,200 beds in 40 states, the United Kingdom, and Puerto Rico. Acadia provides behavioral health and addiction services to its patients in a variety of settings, including inpatient psychiatric hospitals, specialty treatment facilities, residential treatment centers, and outpatient clinics. For more information about Acadia, visit www.acadiahealthcare.com.

About The Jason Foundation, Inc.

The Jason Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting the “silent epidemic” of youth suicide through educational programs for young people, educators, parents, and other community groups. The Jason Foundation, headquartered in Hendersonville, TN, was founded in 1997 after the tragic death of Jason Flatt, the 16-year-old son of Clark Flatt. For more

information or locations, visit The Jason Foundation's website,
www.jasonfoundation.com.