# CASA de SALUD
*A Compassionate Path to Wellness*

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## Casa de Salud Launches Mental Health Collaborative

ST. LOUIS (July 17, 2017) – Casa de Salud has begun renovations of a building that will house the organization's Mental Health Collaborative (MHC), an effort to provide mental health services for people who are uninsured, with a focus on immigrants and refugees.

The building, located at 1015 S. Compton, is owned by Saint Louis University, which will lease the facility to Casa rent-free.

Once the renovation is complete, the MHC will provide space for four partner organizations to deliver behavioral health services:  Bilingual International Assistant Services; Saint Francis Community Services; Saint Louis University Medical Family Therapy Program; and St. Louis Psychoanalytic Institute.  It will also include incubation spaces for individual practitioners who, in exchange for devoting a portion of their caseload to Casa's patients, will receive cost-free space and back-office services.  In addition, the Mental Health Collaborative will work with regional universities to provide student learning experiences.

"I am very excited at the prospect of bringing together high-quality agencies and institutions of higher learning to provide access to behavioral healthcare that is greatly needed," said Jorge Riopedre, president of Casa de Salud.  "Combined with the primary care that we already offer, this is a tremendous opportunity to practice integrated care that holistically treats the physical and mental aspects of a person's health, all in one place and at an affordable cost."

Edward S. Macias, Chairman of the Board for Casa, added that, "The Mental Health Collaborative will leverage Casa's cultural expertise and proven volunteer-provider model with our partners' capabilities in treating mental illness so that we can together address the lack of availability of behavioral health services for some of the most vulnerable members of our community."

Construction of the Mental Health Collaborative building starts later this month and is slated to be completed by next January, with service delivery beginning on February 1, 2018.  The project is made possible in part by a generous donation from the William T. Kemper Foundation, Commerce Bank, Trustee.

**About the Partners**

**Bilingual International Assistant Services**: Founded by stateless refugee women, the agency offers a wide range of multilingual health and mental health services to immigrant and refugee communities in the St. Louis area, from in-school trauma informed counseling to supportive mental health services for foreign-born seniors aging in place.  Programming is frequently delivered directly in the community (homes, schools) by professional therapists with a wrap-around, holistic treatment model that boasts recourse to multilingual case management, legal, employment, and other resources.

**Saint Francis Community Services**:  Provides bilingual, culturally competent mental health counseling to Latino immigrants and their families in the St. Louis Metropolitan Area.  Therapists are highly trained and experienced bilingual, Spanish-speaking counselors who use evidence-based practices with children, adolescents, and adults.  Clients are engaged in all modalities as therapists treat individuals, couples, families, and groups. Service program has been proven to improve the mental health and functioning of Latino clients, allowing them to more fully engage in their families and their communities.

**Saint Louis University Medical Family Therapy Program (MFTP)**:  This program resides within the Department of Family and Community Medicine of Saint Louis University's School of Medicine. It is designed to train license-eligible Master's students in marriage and family therapy and doctoral students who are academicians and clinicians in mental health and primary care settings.

**St. Louis Psychoanalytic Institute**:  An educational center providing psychoanalytically oriented, professional training and continuing education through graduate, post-graduate and community education courses. The aim of the Institute is to support healthy development of the mind and emotions. Dynamic partnerships are forged between therapist and patient, teacher and student, parent and child.  The Institute also runs the Schiele Clinic which offers high-quality, in-depth professional assessment and treatment on a sliding-fee basis.


**About Casa de Salud**

Casa de Salud is a nonprofit organization that facilitates and delivers low-cost, high-quality healthcare for patients who do not have health insurance, with a special emphasis on immigrants and refugees.  Casa also assists patients in connecting with existing healthcare providers and working with them to achieve the best possible outcomes. For more information, call 314-977-1250 or visit CasadeSaludstl.org.

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