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OPPF ANNOUNCES WINNER OF ITS ENLIGHTENMENT AWARD

(Columbus, OH) The Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Foundation (OPPF) is pleased to announce the winner of this year's Enlightenment Award. The award recognizes outstanding activity or presentations during 2020 that: enhance the public's access to treatment; enhances the public's understanding of mental health and substance use disorders; and/or decreases the stigma often associated with these disorders.

Ohio CareLine

The Ohio CareLine is a toll-free emotional support call service created by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and administered in community settings. Mental health and substance use disorder health professionals' staff the CareLine 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They offer confidential support in times of personal or family crisis when individuals may be struggling to cope with challenges in their lives. When callers need additional services, they will receive assistance and connection to local providers.

Nominated by Dale Svendsen, MD, a past president of OP PF, Dr. Svendsen praised Ohio CareLine "for providing emotional support call services administered in local community settings, education and advocacy through its evidence-based program to address depression and suicide-related issues facing today's youth, and for reducing the stigma of those seeking mental health care."

"We are grateful for the leadership and support OP PA and its Foundation, OP PF, provides to the mental health care professionals in Ohio, and are truly honored to receive this award," said Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services Director Lori Criss. "The CareLine has provided hope and healing to thousands of Ohioans grappling with emotional distress and mental health needs amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This is wonderful recognition for the teamwork that occurred within the department and in our communities to make help visible and easily accessible and to connect Ohioans to critical mental health services and recovery supports."

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The Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Foundation (OPPF) is a non-profit charitable foundation working with psychiatrists and other medical and mental health professionals to ensure the highest quality psychiatric care for Ohioans now and in the future. This is done through professional education that enriches clinical knowledge; public education that increases awareness of mental health issues; and support for research that advances. The OP PF is the charitable arm of the Ohio Psychiatric Physicians Association.