



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Lynn Buehler
Coastal Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
Compeer Program Director
1565 State Street
Sarasota, Fl. 34236
941.927.8900 x1126
941.308.2931 Fax
LBuehler@coastalbh.org

sponsored through



COMPEER SARASOTA RECEIVES \$95,000 GRANT FROM COMPEER INC. TO HELP CHILDREN'S MENTORING PROGRAM GROW IN LOCAL AREA

Sarasota, FL (December 17, 2018) – Compeer Sarasota learned today that it has been awarded \$95,000 to serve children 5 to 17 years old with mental health disorders in Sarasota and Manatee County. Disbursed over a three year period, the stipulation for these funds is to meet 100 children service goals by the end of 2021 -- which will make this program sustainable going forward.

The grant calls for plans to reach into cities with high growth population where children currently remain on a waiting list -- in areas like North Port and Venice. There are also plans to target high need areas in North Sarasota County and Manatee County.

"The State of Florida became ground zero to the most recent school mass shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida." states Lynn Buehler, Compeer Sarasota Program Director. "The research is conclusive about mentoring/friendship programs being the linchpin for children who feel lonely, isolated and have been bullied -- to find a pathway to success both socially and academically."

Additionally in reviewing the suicide incidences among teens in Florida it is of note that over a three year period from 2015-2017 -- 3,187 teens [www.flhealthcharts.com] chose to end their lives. In Sarasota county 275 teens are included in these statistics.

###

About the Compeer Sarasota Youth Programs.

The Compeer Youth Mentoring Program encourages youth with mental health disorders to build self-confidence, self-reliance, and healthy relationships. This is achieved by involving them in one-to-one mentorships, with volunteer adults in regular positive social contact. Youth are referred into the program by their therapists, school counselors, or case managers -- and matched with sensitivity to the interests and availability of the youth and the volunteer. Compeer also serves adults.

For more information, contact Lynn Buehler, Compeer Program Director, at 941 927-8900 Ext. 1126 or visit www.compeersarasota.com