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Contact: Ronnie Simpson, 985-898-5243

ICYMI – Plans for Safe Haven Campus in Mandeville Rolled Out

St. Tammany Parish Government, in conjunction with Kurt Salmon, a leading Health Care consultant firm, unveiled the strategic plans for the Parish's Safe Haven Campus earlier this week at a Town Hall meeting. Parish President Pat Brister opened the public meeting by articulating her vision for the future of behavioral healthcare on the campus. The purpose of the meeting was to share with the community, the culmination of the planning efforts by the Safe Haven Task Force and stakeholder interviews. The presentation included an overview of the planning process, a discussion of the current state of behavioral health, both on a national level and in St. Tammany, the Safe Haven vision and goals, and the Safe Haven Campus Master Plan.

"In 2012, when the State of Louisiana announced the closure of Southeast Hospital — the state of Behavioral Health services in St. Tammany was dire," said Pat Brister, St. Tammany Parish President. "However, what once seemed like a curse — the end of available behavioral health services in our community — turned into the inspired beginning of our vision of a model for the continuum of care of behavioral health services. We will capitalize on the partnerships that assisted us in saving behavioral healthcare in the Parish to further the vision of Safe Haven."

Brister went on to say, "This campus and its operations will be a gold standard for other communities across the country to emulate. More importantly, the people we care about, who need assistance, will get the help they deserve. This is a systemic problem, requiring all agencies to work collaboratively while keeping the patient at the center of all of our decisions and actions."

The proposed Safe Haven timeline includes the planning and design of behavioral healthcare that will allow patients to be offered all the services they might need through partnerships borne out of the launch of Safe Haven. Additionally, remediation and renovation of the current buildings on campus will provide a home to multiple agencies in order to provide critical services in a convenient location. The remediation and renovations of the main facilities are expected to begin in early 2017, with two facilities operational — the NAMI drop-in Center, and the Family Promise Day Center — by mid-2017. The first phase of the long-term strategy will include crisis intervention and healing services centers which are expected to be fully operational by 2019.

The Safe Haven Campus is located at the site of the former Southeast Louisiana Hospital in Mandeville. The vision of Safe Haven is as follows: *Safe Haven will provide a collaborative healing environment for the behavioral health continuum by creating a high-quality, coordinated, sustainable and humane network of care anchored in St. Tammany Parish.*

To learn more about the project and updates on the progress of the facility, visit www.safehavenstp.org.

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