



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation Selected for 2023 Ethel and James Flinn Foundation Capacity Building Grant**

### ***Award Supports Behavioral Healthcare for Huron Valley PACE Participants***

**Chelsea/Detroit, MI, October 10, 2023** – The UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation is pleased to announce it was recently awarded a 2023 Ethel and James Flinn Foundation grant of \$50,000 over one year. These funds will support training in motivational interviewing for our Huron Valley Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) interdisciplinary team members, in order to improve behavioral healthcare outcomes for our PACE participants.

A program of Brio Living Services, Huron Valley PACE serves the social, medical, and supportive needs of low-income, older adults, ages 55 and up, who live within the PACE service area of Washtenaw and Monroe counties, as well as parts of Oakland, Wayne, and Livingston counties. Older adults must be certified as meeting the State of Michigan criteria for nursing facility level-of-care, but can live safely in their homes and communities, thanks to PACE support.

The Ethel and James Flinn Foundation is a private, Michigan-based foundation that supports mental health services in southeast Michigan. This year, the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation awarded \$2.8 million total, split among 51 grants to support mental health services in their five focus areas: Evidence-Based Practices; Capacity Building Opportunities; Awareness, Education and Outreach Mini-Grants; Advocacy Support; and Collaborative Initiatives.

This grant from the Flinn Foundation will support training in motivational interviewing for Huron Valley PACE’s interdisciplinary team, made up of approximately 45 team members representing all aspects of a participant’s care, from clinical care to transportation. “The Interdisciplinary Team works together to create care plans for PACE participants,” explained Huron Valley PACE Executive Director, Sonja Felton. “Motivational interviewing is a technique which emphasizes patient-centered conversations that will create agency for participants in our care and help moderate power imbalances. As interdisciplinary team members become more

comfortable with motivational interviewing techniques, we anticipate an increase in the number of PACE participants we are able to serve who live with mental health concerns.”

“We are delighted to receive this generous grant from the Ethel and James Flinn Foundation and for the opportunity to once again partner with the Flinn Foundation in support of the vulnerable older adults we serve,” said UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation President & CEO, Kelli Smith. “Thanks to this grant, our interdisciplinary team members at Huron Valley PACE will be better prepared to provide excellent care for our participants, helping them to live independently in their own homes and communities and with the highest quality of mental health and well-being.”

Through this project, the PACE interdisciplinary team will enroll this spring in an intensive, semester-long online course in motivational interviewing, offered by UMass Chan Medical School in Worcester, Massachusetts. Graduates of the program receive a certificate in motivational interviewing.

“Motivational interviewing techniques are a valuable tool for putting the participant at the center of their care decisions and have proved to inspire lasting positive change,” said Felton. “Knowledge of motivational interviewing will provide team members with effective communication skills to increase participants’ engagement in their own treatment, care plans, and healthcare outcomes, and ultimately increase Huron Valley PACE’s behavioral health capacity. I am grateful to the Flinn Foundation for making this possible.”

PACE offers a cost-effective alternative to nursing home care, providing overall savings of 40% to the State of Michigan compared to traditional nursing home care. PACE’s interdisciplinary team of professionals provides participants with a “one-stop” shop model for all their healthcare needs, including comprehensive medical, occupational and physical therapy, pharmacy needs, nutrition and meals, health education, social and recreational activities, and door-to-door transportation. Most participants are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and pay no additional fees for PACE services.

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*The Ethel and James Flinn Foundation is a Detroit based private foundation established in 1976 by Ethel “Peggy” Flinn and her brother, James “Jim” Flinn, Jr. Peggy passed away in 1994. Jim Flinn, Jr., who was diagnosed with schizophrenia in his early 20’s, led a remarkable life until his passing away in 2007 at the age of 91. The Foundation is committed to improving the scope, quality and delivery of mental health services in Michigan. Since inception, over \$48.7 million in grants have been awarded. The Foundation’s geographic focus is primarily Southeast Michigan, defined as the counties of Wayne, Oakland, Macomb and Washtenaw. 313.309.3436 | FlinnFoundation.org*

*Building on a foundation of over 165 years of combined service to older adults, **Brio Living Services**, formerly UMRC & Porter Hills, is a faith-based, nonprofit organization whose mission is: Welcoming all, partnering together, enriching lives. Its vision is: A world in which all are empowered to age well. Brio Living Services represents the second largest nonprofit senior living organization in Michigan and serves the most economically diverse population of older adults. With a tradition of exceptional quality and a commitment to cutting-edge care, Brio Living Services and its affiliates serve approximately 8,000 older adults each year, from 23 locations and service lines, across 22 counties in Michigan’s lower peninsula. 734.433.1000 | 616.949.4975 | MyBrio.org*

*The **UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation**, in support of Brio Living Services, is the charitable arm for the organization, with headquarters in Chelsea and Grand Rapids, Michigan. The mission of the UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation is: As faithful, philanthropic stewards and steadfast advocates for vibrant aging, we support the mission of Brio Living Services. The UMRC-Porter Hills Foundation's fundraising initiatives focus on the health and well-being of older adults, and the education and retention of our outstanding team members. These include Benevolent Care, the cornerstone of the Foundation, as well as Team Member Support Services, Capital Improvements, and Life Enrichment for older adults.  
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