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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CICS Mobile Crisis Response Services to go Live in Three Additional Counties in May
The program will launch in the remaining three counties of the CICS region by June**

DES MOINES, Iowa — CICS and its partner organization Eyerly Ball Mental Health Services will launch mobile crisis response services in Boone, Marshall and Story counties on May 29 at 7:00 a.m. The team servicing this three-county area will be known as the central team.

CICS and Eyerly Ball officially launched their new mobile crisis response services in Jasper, Madison, Poweshiek and Warren counties at 7:00 a.m. Monday, March 26. Mobile crisis response services for the other six counties of Boone, Franklin, Hamilton, Hardin, Marshall and Story were on hold until staffing capacities were met. With the launch of the central team on May 29, the only remaining counties of the CICS region waiting on mobile crisis response services are Franklin, Hamilton and Hardin counties. This three-county area will be serviced by a unit known as the north team, which will launch on June 18 at 7:00 a.m.

CICS and Eyerly Ball Mental Health Services announced in early 2018 they will provide new mobile crisis response services for central Iowans in the CICS region struggling with depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts and other mental illnesses. The mobile crisis response team responds to and remains with callers in a crisis. This frees up local police forces to continue their patrols on the streets of the communities they serve.

In collaboration with Foundation 2, the Cedar Rapids-based organization operating CICS's 24-hour Central Iowa Crisis Line (844-258-8858), the mobile crisis response team will operate 24-hours a day, 365 days a year, with no less than two providers, trained according to requirements of Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 24. This means when someone calls the Central Iowa Crisis Line, a trained crisis counselor will determine if the caller needs in-person, preventive care and dispatch a response team to the caller's location within the hour.

"This is huge for the CICS region's residents who may need crisis services at any hour of the day," said CICS CEO Jody Eaton. "Right now, that responsibility falls on local police officers who can't always stay by someone's side throughout the night as they deal with their crisis. Having a trained team respond and coordinate care for individuals in need will be critical for improving mental health services in central Iowa."

CICS put out a request for proposal in 2017 for its providers to bid on the program. In late 2017, Eyerly Ball was chosen as the provider to administer the program, and a goal of initiating operations in March 2018 was set. Krystina Engle was named director of crisis services, overseeing the new effort and implementing its launch.

"We're so excited to begin offering this crucial service to central Iowans," Engle said. "Our trained staff are ready to hit the ground running, responding to individuals in need 24-7 and making our communities safer and healthier for all."

About CICS

CICS supports individuals and strengthens communities by serving the unique needs of individuals with mental health and intellectual and other developmental disabilities in 10 Iowa counties: Boone, Franklin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jasper, Madison, Marshall, Poweshiek, Story and Warren. CICS professionals provide the vital link between individuals and appropriate resources in the region to improve health, hope and successful outcomes. CICS professionals help individuals navigate through the process of applying for and securing the necessary financial support for their immediate needs. CICS is committed to partnering with providers, families, individuals, and partner health and human service systems to maintain a system of care approach that is welcoming and individual oriented. CICS was formerly known as Central Iowa Community Services.

About Eyerly Ball

*Eyerly Ball has services available for a wide array of mental health conditions, including depression, anxiety, chronic mental illness, substance abuse and more. Depending on the severity of need, Eyerly Ball offers outpatient therapy and psychiatric services, community-based treatment and residential services. Partnering with CICS, Eyerly Ball offers services in four of the region's counties: **Madison, Warren, Boone and Story**. Eyerly Ball is especially excited about its newly expanded efforts in Warren County, offering more therapy services, as well as a med provider. This means medication and psychiatric services will now be available in Warren County through Eyerly Ball.*