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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 10, 2019

TECHNOLOGY EXPANDS BURLINGTON'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

April 10, 2019 (BURLINGTON, Iowa) – Mental health services are expanding in Burlington, thanks to Optimae LifeService's use of technology to provide remote-video telepsychiatry.

Mike McGee, PA-C, a psychiatric medication prescriber for Optimae, leads the Des Moines County prescribing program. He provides psychiatric diagnostic and medication management services in person and via telepsychiatry, bringing 40 years of experience in the medical field.

"The feedback we've received is quite positive," said Tracy Liptak, LISW, regional behavioral health director for Optimae Behavioral Health Services in Southeastern Iowa. "Our client customers tell us that Mike is not only a wonderful, knowledgeable prescriber, but also a very nice person."

Optimae Behavioral Health telepsychiatry patients speak with McGee through videoconference, with face-to-face visits occurring every two months. A nurse meets with each patient in person, answers questions and provides needed support. After the remote-video visit, the nurse meets with the patient to ensure everything about the visit was understood and that all orders are carried out.

"This is my first experience with telemedicine and it has been working very well," said McGee. "The communication is clear, I can see and evaluate body language and I am careful to ensure my clients can do the same. To this point, it has been very rewarding and enjoyable for me, and I'm pleased we are able to expand mental health services to southeastern Iowans through the use of this technology."

Appointments can be made by calling 319.237.1732.

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About Optimae LifeServices

Optimae LifeServices, Inc. provides health care and human services for individuals with disabilities and mental illness from 39 Central, Eastern and Southern Iowa counties. For more than three decades, we have equipped our customers with supports and services that encourage choice, empowerment and community integration. Our programs include community-based, behavioral health, home health, rehabilitation and residential care services. We advocate for the rights and needs of more than 5,300 Iowans each year, providing the quality of care we would want for our own family.