May 23, 2014

Michelle Bechard

Center for Mental Health Services

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

1 Choke Cherry Road

Room 6-1097

Rockville MD 20857

Dear Ms. Bechard:

The Hopewell Community Mental Health Center is pleased to offer its commitment to The Happy Valley Board of Education in support of its application for the Now Is The Time Project AWARE-LEA opportunity.

We welcome this opportunity to promote the dissemination of Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training throughout the Hopewell community. We have long recognized the critical role that teachers, school staff, and community leaders who work with Hopewell’s youth might play in recognizing the signs and symptoms of mental illness and connecting youth and their families to needed treatment and to other supports when indicated.

The proposed Mental Health First Aid project will saturate the Happy Valley community with adults trained to provide YMHFA and establish the infrastructure necessary to maintain on-going training beyond the grant period.

This letter represents our commitment to support and collaborate with The Happy Valley Board of Education in order to provide YMHFA training to 320 teachers, 125 school administrators and staff, and over 125 community youth leaders in the Happy Valley region.

The Hopewell Community Mental Health Center has over 25 years of experience providing school-based prevention services and community-based licensed behavioral health treatment services for youth and their families. We currently have three staff in our Center who have been trained to provide Mental Health First Aid training and grant funds, subcontracted to our Center, will permit us further expand our capacity in partnership with the BOE, as described in the application. Our in-kind contribution of $10,000 includes planning and coordination support from our senior leadership, clinical supervision for grant-funded trainers, and training space within our organization.

I urge SAMHSA to fund this important project. Now is indeed the time for community mental health promotion in Happy Valley.

Sincerely,

Rachel Resilience, Chief Operating Officer

Hopewell Community Mental Health Center

456 Happy Valley Road

Hopewell, MI 10056