

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **NORTHWEST CENTER FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NOW DELIVERING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN ENID, KINGFISHER AND GUTHRIE**

Effective July 1st, Wheatland's offices in Enid, Kingfisher and Guthrie will now operate under the auspices of the Northwest Center for Behavioral Health.

The offices in Enid, Guthrie and Kingfisher will remain at their current locations and will retain the same phone numbers. The offices will close one day, Tuesday, July 1<sup>st</sup> for staff orientation. The offices will re-open Wednesday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8 a.m. as Northwest Center for Behavioral Health.

The Northwest Center for Behavioral Health (NCBH) until recently had been known as Western State Psychiatric Center. The facility remains part of the State's behavioral health system, and is operated by the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. NCBH provides inpatient, outpatient and residential mental health services to all of northwest Oklahoma. In addition to the main facility in Woodward, NCBH operates satellite mental health outpatient facilities in Alva, Fairview and Guymon.

"Most, if not all, of the Wheatland employees transferred to the state system," said Steve Norwood, Executive Director for NCBH. "So there will be minimal change for the consumers. For the most part, they will still be able to see the same therapist and other service providers with who they are comfortable."

Although many things will remain the same, there are plans to increase available services throughout the area so that consumer needs will be better met. “We have hired a full-time psychiatrist who will start July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2003. This will greatly increase our ability to serve the consumer with much needed medication clinics. We are looking forward to providing services in this new area of the state.”

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