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**MENTAL HEALTH, SUBSTANCE ABUSE EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT
UNIT ESTABLISHED IN TAHLEQUAH**

Bill Willis Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Center has established an after-hours crisis evaluation and assessment unit at 1400 S. Hensley Drive in Tahlequah.

Center staff will conduct face-to-face crisis intervention and pre-hospital evaluations for people needing mental health and/or substance abuse treatment services, said Bill Willis CMHC Executive Director Connie Schlittler.

The unit will operate from 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. Monday through Friday and 24 hours a day on weekends.

Previously, weekend and evening crisis intervention was handled through emergency rooms in Sallisaw, Wagoner, Tahlequah and Stilwell. "Now, all screenings and hospital admissions will be routed through the Tahlequah Evaluation and Assessment Unit, giving people one central location at which to seek help," Schlittler said. "Also, the after-hours crisis phone line will be staffed by mental health professionals from Bill Willis CMHC, providing people with yet another resource to turn to for help."

(more)

crisis unit/2

The crisis unit can be reached at 918-207-3000 or by calling local Bill Willis CMHC offices in Sallisaw, 918-775-5513; Wagoner, 918-485-4040; or Stilwell, 918-696-6212.

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Bill Willis CMHC is part of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services' statewide network of behavioral health facilities addressing community need in the areas of mental health, substance abuse, and domestic violence/sexual assault. Bill Willis CMHC in Tahlequah provides outpatient mental health and substance abuse counseling, screening, referral, emergency services, follow-up services, community education, a psychosocial clubhouse, children's gatekeeping evaluations and substance abuse evaluations. Residential substance abuse treatment is available at the Herb Rozell Residential Treatment Unit. For more information, call the center at 918-207-3000.