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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH HONORS EXCELLENCE IN  
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ADVOCACY, INNOVATION, LEADERSHIP**

**April 5, 2017, SEATTLE, WA** - A local health leader was among a handful of individuals from across the country honored by the National Council for Behavioral Health at their annual conference recently. Twenty-two awards were handed out during the event at the NATCON17 Conference in Seattle, fondly dubbed “The Oscars of Behavioral Health”.

Danis Russell, CEO of Genesee Health System in Flint, was one of four individuals honored for Visionary Leadership in behavioral health. During the presentation it was stated, that “when a public health crisis strikes a community, caring for residents’ behavioral health is just as critical as their physical well-being. Nowhere have we seen this more vividly than in Flint, Michigan, where Dan has worked tirelessly with his team at Genesee Health System to address the needs specifically related to the Flint water crisis.”

Russell has been CEO at Genesee Health System for 18 years, and has over 40 years in the community mental health field. Prior to GHS, he ran behavioral health organizations in Ohio and New Jersey. He was previously recognized in 2012 by Behavioral Healthcare Magazine as one of five National Behavioral Health Champions.

The National Council for Behavioral Health is the unifying voice of America’s mental health and addictions treatment organizations. Together with more than 2,800 member organizations, serving 10 million adults, children, and families living with mental illness and addictions, the National Council is committed to all Americans having access to comprehensive, high quality care that affords every opportunity for recovery.

Genesee Health System provides services and support to Genesee County residents who are adults and children with developmental disabilities, adults with serious mental illness, children with serious emotional disturbances, and adults and children with substance use disorders, with a focus on the health of the whole person.



## News Release

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