



Contact: Amy Safford, Marketing and Communications Director, at 207-661-6616  
asafford@mainebbehavioralhealthcare.org

## **The Children's Initiative at Maine Behavioral Healthcare Receives \$99k from Portland's Thrive 2027**

***The Children's Initiative is one of three projects funded by United Way of Greater Portland's Thrive 2027 investments in kids, families and communities.***

South Portland, Maine (June 23, 2017): To ensure more kids are successful in school, more families and individuals can afford to live and work here, and more people are living long, healthy lives, Thrive 2027 is investing in three ten-year goals to drive meaningful change. The total \$250,000 investment has been granted to three community programs: The Children's Initiative, Preble Street Learning Collaborative and SmilePartners.

The Children's Initiative of Maine Behavioral Healthcare received a \$99,776 grant for an 18-month period to address critical deficits in the behavioral and physical health needs of children and adolescents ages 3-18 in the greater Portland community. "Primarily we will be training clinicians in trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy and training the community on adverse childhood experiences and resilience," said Rebecca Hoffmann Frances, project director and Director of Clinical Innovation at Maine Behavioral Healthcare.

To maximize the opportunity for children, adults, and communities to live longer lives, the prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) must be reduced before toxic stress irreversibly impacts health. "MBH has a long history of providing evidence-based trauma treatment for children. In order to maintain the quality care we provide to children, it is important that we continue to invest in these important practices."

More than 140 businesses, public institutions, foundations and non-profit organizations have pledged to work together to achieve these 10-year goals. "Thrive2027 is our community's commitment to make our region stronger for everyone who calls it home," said Katie Fullam Harris, Thrive2027 Council Co-Chair, and SVP, Government Relations and Accountable Care at MaineHealth. "If we thoughtfully and intentionally work together toward a shared vision, we can make long-lasting change in our community." United Way of Greater Portland is aligning its work behind Thrive2027: see United Way's press release.

Maine Behavioral Healthcare, a member of the MaineHealth system of providers, is committed to creating a seamless system of behavioral healthcare across Maine, coordinating hospital psychiatric care with community-based treatment services, and better access to medical care through integration with primary care services. With over 30 outpatient locations throughout southern, western and mid-coast Maine, as well as Spring Harbor Hospital, MBH provides a continuum of behavioral healthcare services for Maine residents of all ages.