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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release – Nov. 12, 2025



Lighthouse, Murray State Partner to Strengthen Oklahoma's Behavioral Health Workforce

Ardmore, Okla. – Lighthouse Behavioral Wellness Centers and Murray State College have formed a new partnership aimed at developing and strengthening Oklahoma's behavioral health workforce. This innovative learning pathway will connect classroom instruction with real-world experience, better preparing students for immediate employment and long-term success in behavioral health careers.

The partnership will be formally recognized during a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) signing event at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025, at the Lighthouse Ardmore Outpatient Clinic.

Through the agreement, Murray State College will implement a three-course Case Management Curriculum with three semesters of internship, provided by Lighthouse. Under the supervision of a Lighthouse Mental Health Professional, students will gain experience in areas such as assessments, care coordination, client advocacy and crisis intervention.

"This collaborative effort represents a shared commitment to building a knowledgeable, compassionate behavioral health workforce for southern Oklahoma," said Jessica Pfau, Lighthouse CEO. "By combining quality education with meaningful field experience, we're giving students the tools and confidence to make a real impact in our communities."

The newly developed curriculum integrates theoretical knowledge with practical application. Students will not only fulfill academic requirements but also acquire hands-on skills that meet industry standards, like a Case Manager II certification.

“This collaboration highlights what can be achieved when education and community partners work together for a common goal,” said Dr. Tim Faltyn, Murray State College President. “We are proud to partner with Lighthouse to help expand behavioral health education, leading to more qualified professionals, stronger support networks, and healthier communities.”

The joint initiative supports the broader goal of improving access to quality behavioral health care across Oklahoma by developing a pipeline of well-trained, locally rooted professionals.

Event Details:

Time: 11:30 a.m. – Noon

Date: Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025

Place: Ardmore Clinic at the Quintin Little Building (2007 N. Commerce St., Ardmore, OK)

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Lighthouse Behavioral Wellness Centers is a non-profit organization. We are proud to be a Certified Community Behavioral Health Center (CCBHC) and the designated Community Mental Health Center for nine counties in southern Oklahoma. As a CCBHC, Lighthouse ensures access to comprehensive behavioral health services, which include outpatient counseling, care coordination, addiction treatment and 24/7 crisis services. Lighthouse serves anyone who requests care for mental health and substance use, regardless of their ability to pay, place of residence or age.

Murray State College, located in Ardmore, Oklahoma, and Tishomingo, Oklahoma, provides opportunities for student learning, personal growth, professional success and community enhancement. Murray State serves more than 3,600 students annually. The College offers associate degrees in applied science, arts and science, and a Bachelor of Applied Technology in Gunsmithing.

