



RAWHIDE YOUTH SERVICES RECEIVES QUALIFIED RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM CERTIFICATION

NEW LONDON – Rawhide Youth Services is one of the first organizations in Wisconsin to receive its Qualified Residential Treatment Program (QRTP) certification through the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF).

“We are proud to be one of the first five organizations in the entire state to receive this certification,” said Rawhide’s President and CEO Alan Loux.

This certification helps organizations standardize qualifications for providing quality residential care treatment.

“Our biggest goal is to make sure our youth at Rawhide receive the best residential treatment care possible,” said Rawhide’s Quality Improvement Manager Carissa Buchanan. “We take into consideration each youths’ background, trauma and experiences, and teach them the life skills they need to grow into successful adults.”

The certification looks at several areas of an organization, and Rawhide has worked hard for the last year to ensure the organization is meeting each qualification. To be QRTP certified, the organization must:

1. **Use a trauma-informed, evidence-based treatment model.** After extensive research, Rawhide chose to partner with Cornell University out of New York to implement its evidence-based Children And Residential Experiences (CARE) Model. It is a principle-based model that provides six principles to guide decision making, considering the best interest of the children and families served. Every employee at Rawhide will be required to complete the CARE model training.
2. **Offer 24/7 nursing services for all youth.** Rawhide provides full-time nursing services with registered nurses and monthly psychiatric services to all residential youth.
3. **Provide family involvement in every youths’ treatment plan.** From day one families are involved in each youths’ comprehensive residential treatment planning. This includes treatment planning sessions with the youths’ treatment team, weekly family therapy sessions, and on- and off-campus family visits.
4. **Offer program discharge planning and aftercare services.** Rawhide begins its discharge planning for all youth on day one of their treatment with the goal of integrating youth back to their community with their families. Youth are then

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offered 6 months of aftercare services in many areas, including medical, mental health, educational, spiritual and family support.

5. **Be accredited by a DCF-approved agency.** Rawhide received the Council on Accreditation (COA) in 2019, which holds the organization to high-quality standards for behavioral health.

“QRTP certification is validation that Rawhide continues to be a leader in providing quality programs and services to at-risk youth,” said Rawhide Director of Residential Services Greg Hooson.

The certification is renewed biannually to ensure Rawhide continues offering the highest quality of residential and group home care to all youth.

“It is extremely rewarding to work alongside Rawhide’s leaders and staff to create a positive culture for our youth and staff, and equip them with the tools to be successful,” said Rawhide’s Chief Program Officer Tim Klunk.

“Rawhide has and will continue to be an industry leader that is engaged to elevate the level of care that youth deserve,” said Loux.

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Rawhide, Inc. is a faith-based 501(c)(3) recognized charity that offers Wisconsin’s at-risk youth and families a full array of residential and community-based services to equip them with tools to build healthy relationships and behaviors that will help them overcome life’s challenges.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Kristine Livdane
Director of Marketing
(920) 531-2603
klivdane@rawhide.org