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Zumbro Valley Certified as Essential Community Provider

**Rochester, Minn.** – The Minnesota Dept. of Health recently certified Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center an Essential Community Provider (ECP). This five-year certification recognizes health care organizations that serve high-risk, special needs and underserved people, and makes Zumbro Valley the only Rochester-based organization with this designation.

State regulations require that ECPs either provide or coordinate support services such as transportation, linguistic assistance and culturally sensitive services. Department of Health staff completed a rigorous review of Zumbro Valley to ensure it met key statutes and requirements, including:

- Provide or coordinate supportive and stabilizing services, such as transportation, child care, linguistic services, and culturally sensitive and competent services to its clients
- Serve all patients, regardless of their financial limitations
- Charge patients for their services based on a sliding fee schedule, if the ECP is a non-profit organization

“Essential community providers play an important role in health care for patients and populations at risk for inadequate access,” said Dave Cook, chief executive officer. “We ensure that under- and uninsured people, low-income and homeless individuals, adults with mental illness and/or substance abuse issues and other populations have access to high-quality health care.”

(more)

**About Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center**

Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center enhances the quality of life for residents in southeastern Minnesota by serving as a community resource for the understanding and treatment of behavioral health and substance use disorders. The organization collaborates with government agencies, schools, non-profit groups and others to provide programs dedicated to improving the mental health of adults, adolescents and children. Zumbro Valley Mental Health Center is a private, non-profit organization serving Olmsted and Fillmore counties. For more information, visit our Web site at [www.zumbromhc.org](http://www.zumbromhc.org) or call 507-289-2089.

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