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**Collaborative Efforts Culminate in Muncie Crisis Center**

On Wednesday, February 22nd, members of the press gathered with Mayor Ridenour, Deputy Mayor Ivy, Paula Tyler, Mike Patrick, Dr. Dane Minnick, City Council members Ingram and Robinson, and representatives from Police and Fire to discuss the Muncie Crisis Center. The Crisis Center is the result of more than 20 months of collaborative work to address Substance Abuse Disorder and other mental health crises in Delaware County.

“We’re really excited about what this place means for our community, to give people a chance. This is a place where people can go so they do not have to go to jail,” stated Mayor Ridenour. Instead of waiting at the emergency room or being taken to jail, individuals in crisis can be taken to the Crisis Center, where they will receive care from trained behavioral health professionals. The center is not a long-term shelter, and individuals will be connected to appropriate referral sources within 24 hours. This could include outpatient care, hospitalization, rehab centers, DV shelters, or other resources.

The agreement signed earlier in February will fully fund the Crisis Center through December 31, 2026. These funds include Opioid Settlement money, ARP funding, and the Mayor’s EDIT funds. IU Health has already secured a $900,000 grant to help support the center, and is enthusiastic that the State of Indiana will continue to prioritize crisis care in future grants.

The Crisis Center was modeled largely after the STRIDE center in Bloomington, and will be located at 809 W Eighth street. “It took a lot of discussion to settle on the right location,” explained Mayor Ridenour. “The initial plan was to host the Crisis Center at the HUB, but in September of 2022, we came to the conclusion that we would need a dedicated location.”

Paula Tyler, from IU Health, and Crisis Center Director Mike Patrick were both enthusiastic about the Crisis Center and its role in reducing strain on the police department and emergency services. Final renovation plans are being finalized, and the Crisis Center will open by the end of 2023.

“I will say this is very personal to me, as a person who has lost a family member to an overdose.”

“This is a first step in what we are attempting to do to make our city better.”