**Rawhide Acquires CHAPS Academy**

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Continuing Counseling and Equine-Assisted Therapy Operations**

NEW LONDON, WIS., — March 2, 2018 — Rawhide, Inc., a leading residential care and outpatient counseling services provider, has officially acquired CHAPS Academy in Shiocton, Wis. CHAPS Academy was a state licensed mental health clinic that operated since 2004. In January, CHAPS announced that it would be discontinuing operations at the end of that month due to financial challenges.

Rawhide entered negotiations with the CHAPS board of directors and came to an agreement for the transfer of ownership, which was formally approved by both boards. State licensing has been submitted for approval with a goal to re-open doors to the CHAPS facility May 1, 2018. Outpatient counseling services, including use of equine-assisted therapy, will continue to be provided at this location with a primary focus on continuing to serve girls and their families.

“Rawhide is actively seeking input from area mental health providers to tailor services at the CHAPS facility to serve the vital needs of the community,” stated Becky Heldt, Rawhide Clinic Administrator. “Because Rawhide has a long history of using horses in treatment programs with at-risk youth, there will be a lot of parallels in the services Rawhide intends to operate at the CHAPS facility,” concluded Heldt.

The CHAPS facility will complement Rawhide’s outpatient counseling program and its other locations in communities around the state: Green Bay, Appleton, Milwaukee and New London. Rawhide has provided community-based mental health counseling since 2008. For more information on the future of counseling services being provided at the CHAPS facility, the public can call 1-877-300-9101.

**About Rawhide:**Rawhide offers residential care and outpatient services dedicated to helping at-risk youth and their families lead healthy, responsible lives.  Located outside of New London, Wisconsin, Rawhide Boys Ranch emphasizes a faith-based residential environment as an alternative to juvenile corrections for court-referred boys.  In addition, Rawhide provides services to youth and their families through community-based programs such as foster care, outpatient counseling, equine therapy, adventure based summer camps and Intensive Family Weekends.  Learn more about Rawhide by visiting its website at www.rawhide.org

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