

Dr. John Toussaint, President and CEO
ThedaCare

The reasons we are here today are simple:

- According to the Department of Health & Family Services, one in five children and adolescents have a diagnosable mental health disorder.
- As many as two-thirds of these children NEVER receive treatment.
- There is a shortage of adolescent and child psychiatrists nationwide, and it is difficult in an area like the Fox Cities for any one of us as providers (ThedaCare, Affinity and Children's Hospital) to, on our own, recruit and retain an adequate number of child psychiatrists.
- Because of this, children and their families who do seek help must often wait weeks or months to access treatment, especially when that treatment requires intervention by a psychiatrist – a fact that became very clear in the 2006 Fox Cities LIFE study.
- We at ThedaCare and ThedaCare Behavioral Health are pleased to join with Affinity and Children's Hospital of Wisconsin to partner with our community on behalf of our children.
- On behalf of ThedaCare, I personally want to express our thanks and appreciation for the support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the JJ Keller Foundation. In particular, the energy and leadership of the JJ Keller Foundation in making this happen demonstrates their commitment to the quality of life of their employees and our entire community. All of us appreciate the good work that they do and we intend to live up to our part of the bargain by working together to make this effort a success on behalf of our children.