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YOUTH HOMES, YESS ANNOUNCE NEW NAME FOLLOWING MERGER

Name is First Step in Unification of Two Leading Central Iowa Service Organizations

August 3, 2021 (Des Moines, Iowa) — [Youth Homes of Mid-America](#) (YHMA) has merged with [Youth Emergency Services & Shelter](#) (YESS) and the organizations are announcing a new name for the combined entity: Ellipsis.

The merger, which was effective Aug. 1, brings together two of Iowa's leading human service providers. Unification of the organizations is beneficial for Iowa children, families, the state of Iowa, the Iowa Department of Human Services, Juvenile Court Services and the many stakeholders each organization independently serves.

"An ellipsis takes the place of words left unsaid and symbolizes the potential for a new direction in a story," said Travis Sheets, Ellipsis board president. "By providing much-needed opportunities for healing and growth, both YESS and Youth Homes have helped children and families in Iowa to rewrite their stories when they need it most. Combining our organizations under the Ellipsis banner will evolve our ability to provide outstanding services and care that make tangible, life-changing differences in our communities."

For more than three decades, YESS has provided a safety net of programs designed to help children including emergency shelter, crisis nursery care, mental health counseling and care coordination as Iowa's largest provider of emergency services for youth. Likewise, for nearly 80 years, YHMA has been committed to helping troubled youth and teens, and their families, find a path to independence, connecting them with resources and informal support systems.

"Ellipsis will best serve Iowa's youth and families by providing a stronger, unified voice for children's issues," said Sheets.

With the introduction of Ellipsis, the newly formed team will first work to integrate services and develop a cohesive brand. A formal unveiling will happen in the coming months.

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