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Supporting New Haven's Students and Families through Collaboration

Announcing \$965,000 in new funding from the Dalio Foundation to provide school-based mental health services

CONNECTICUT – Marking the fourth year of its collaboration with Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic and New Haven Public Schools, the Dalio Foundation has awarded a grant of \$965,000 to Clifford Beers to provide five schools with full-time, on-site mental health clinicians and community care coordinators to deliver trauma-informed services for more than 200 students during the 2018-19 academic year. This collaboration will support continued student and school success by involving teachers and families in a high-quality system of care that focuses on the whole child to meet students' social, emotional, and academic needs.

The five partner schools are: Bishop Woods School; Truman School; Wexler Grant Community School; Hill Regional Career High School; and High School in the Community.

"The mental health of our students is the most fundamental prerequisite for their well-being and education, and for that reason, the collaboration with New Haven Public Schools and Clifford Beers is very important to me," said **Barbara Dalio of the Dalio Foundation**.

"Children throughout New Haven can realize their full potential with a chance to thrive both at school and at home. The Dalio Foundation's support of New Haven Public Schools – its teachers and its students – supports the district's comprehensive effort to prepare children for the brightest possible future," said **New Haven Mayor Toni N. Harp**. "On behalf of all city residents, I'm grateful for the Dalio Foundation's partnership and support, and applaud Clifford Beers for its sustained efforts to help the children of New Haven every single day."

"Our teachers see firsthand the effects of adversity, trauma, and stress on our students. They know that these factors have the potential to negatively impact a child's ability to achieve and be successful in school. Our collaboration with the Dalio Foundation and Clifford Beers benefits both students and teachers, helping us to create a supportive learning environment to bolster students' affective growth and development and social emotional wellbeing," said **Dr. Carol D. Birks, Superintendent of New Haven Public Schools**.

Clifford Beers' clinicians and community care coordinators work closely with school partners and families to engage at least 40 students in each school who need extra support to succeed. "We work side-by-side with teachers to build trusting relationships with students and their families, and to provide evidence-based and trauma-informed care to help every student excel," said **Dr. Alice M. Forrester, Clifford Beers' Chief Executive Officer**. "Our approach is designed to meet the holistic needs of the whole child and families and to leverage New Haven's community resources to ensure students have what they need to succeed in life."

Since the 2015-16 academic year, the collaboration between the Dalio Foundation, Clifford Beers, and New Haven Public Schools has had a positive impact on academic achievement, absenteeism, and the overall mental health of participating students. Parents and caregivers have reported a reduction in the severity of their child's needs. As

a result, students who might otherwise fall behind are instead supported with the care they need, supporting success in school. To date, the Dalio Foundation has invested more than \$3,000,000 in this collaboration for the benefit of New Haven's students and families.

"This grant will put mental health care clinicians and community care coordinators in five of our schools, embedded on a full-time basis to work side-by-side with our teachers, school counselors, and social workers," said **David Cicarella, President of the New Haven Federation of Teachers**. "The New Haven Federation of Teachers welcomes our colleagues from Clifford Beers as we work together to support our students."

To learn more about this collaboration, please contact: Sheryl S. McNamee, Director of Public Affairs, Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic, Inc., at 203-778-8648 x 2244; smcnamee@cliffordbeers.org.

About the Dalio Foundation

The Dalio Foundation is a Connecticut-based family foundation created by Ray and Barbara Dalio. The Foundation's giving reflects the diverse philanthropic passions of the Dalio family. Barbara leads the Foundation's work to strengthen public education in Connecticut through collaboration. She is passionate about engaging with educators, community leaders, and young people to achieve positive outcomes and greater equity across the state. The Foundation's education portfolio reflects her holistic approach, which includes championing public school educators and communities and empowering high school-aged youth to realize their potential. To learn more, visit: www.daliophilanthropies.org.

About Clifford W. Beers Guidance Clinic

Clifford Beers has a respected century-plus tradition of bringing leading-edge mental health solutions to children and families. Today, Clifford Beers continues to develop and implement community-based systems of care programming in clinic offices, schools, and homes. Among other things, Clifford Beers offers trauma-informed outpatient care and supports, services for children and their families facing autism or intellectual/developmental disabilities, care coordination that considers the full family dynamic, trauma training for child-serving organizations, and emergency crisis care. Last year, Clifford Beers served over 6,300 children/caregivers and provided professional development training to over 3,300 in Connecticut and beyond. Clifford Beers also maintains a policy presence to protect and expand funding that supports critical human services. In July 2018, Clifford Beers earned the Gold Seal of Accreditation from The Joint Commission, indicating the agency's high-quality care. For more information, visit: www.cliffordbeers.org.

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