



## Brattleboro Retreat

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Brattleboro Retreat & Rescue Inc. Pilot New Transportation Program**

BRATTLEBORO, VT (January 17, 2023) — The Brattleboro Retreat and Rescue Inc. have signed a one year contract for a pilot program that will help address the critical shortage of hospital transportation options for voluntary mental health patients waiting in emergency departments throughout Vermont. This program will allow the Brattleboro Retreat to directly contribute to solutions for these patients who can sometimes wait for days in the emergency department.

Linda Rossi, CEO of the Brattleboro Retreat, stated: “We have seen admitted patients waiting to be transferred to the Retreat, but have their admission delayed for hours or days for the sole reason of transportation not being available. This program will have an immediate impact that will get patients to the right environment for treatment, while also freeing up needed bed space in our acute care hospitals. The Retreat is making this investment into our pilot program because we believe this can help now. We are proud to partner with Rescue Inc. and look forward to working together.”

Drew Hazelton, Chief of Operations for Rescue Inc., stated: “The EMS system in Vermont and across the country is struggling to meet the daily demand for service. Rescue Inc is a regional non-profit ambulance service provider that has been a committed community partner for almost 60 years. Our providers are excited about the opportunity to improve the healthcare system and enhance the patient experience. Our dedicated crews working with the amazing staff at the Brattleboro Retreat will help ensure timely ambulance transportation for necessary mental health services. Our regional approach to EMS delivery has given us the ability to partner on new important projects without impacting our 911 response capacity.”

The new transportation program will launch in February 2023 and will be coordinated through the Brattleboro Retreat.

For more information about the Brattleboro Retreat please visit [www.brattlebororetreat.org](http://www.brattlebororetreat.org).  
For more information about Rescue Inc please visit [www.rescueinc.org](http://www.rescueinc.org)

**The Brattleboro Retreat, founded in 1834, is a not-for-profit, regional specialty psychiatric hospital, providing a full range of diagnostic, therapeutic and rehabilitation services for individuals of all ages and their families. Nationally recognized for its premier treatment in behavioral healthcare, the Brattleboro Retreat offers a high quality, individualized, comprehensive continuum of care including inpatient, partial hospitalization, residential and outpatient treatment.**