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COLLAGE, The Art & Science of Healthy Aging Signs Agreement with CIM to Create Web-based Assessment Tools

Kennett Square, PA – COLLAGE, The Art & Science of Healthy Aging (www.collageaging.org), a consortium of aging service organizations using an automated assessment system to advance healthy aging, has announced an exclusive agreement with The Center for Information Management, Inc. (CIM; www.ciminc.com), an Ann Arbor, MI-based company. CIM will create, deploy and support web-based tools, a second-generation software package, for COLLAGE members, consisting of an integrated assessment tool and person-centered process to advance healthy aging and improve wellness outcomes.

COLLAGE was created in 2005 as a joint venture between Kendal Outreach, LLC, a not-for-profit subsidiary of The Kendal Corporation, and the Institute for Aging Research at Hebrew SeniorLife, a not-for-profit organization affiliated with Harvard Medical School.

The exclusive license agreement will deliver customized web software, data hosting, and support services from CIM for all COLLAGE consortia members across the country. The new platform will allow COLLAGE to better meet unmet demand for its services and expand its membership from the current 90 sites to over 400 sites in the next five years.

“The partnership with COLLAGE is an ideal match for us” says Douglas Zimmer, President of CIM, Inc., “because it will allow us to work with true innovators in this field and to build systems that leverage information to improve the lives of countless older adults. The people-centered mission and quality standards of COLLAGE align precisely with those of CIM.”

COLLAGE offers a customized suite of standardized and systematic assessment instruments that evaluate health and wellness in areas such as memory loss, nutrition, balance, mental well-being and social connectedness. The system is used by a consortium network consisting of continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs), congregate senior housing sites (both market rate and subsidized), and senior service agencies. As a unique aspect of COLLAGE, information is forwarded to a national repository, which disseminates reports allowing members to compare residents and results with their peers. In business since 1980, CIM provides both hosted systems and custom software services, with a specialization in meeting the unique needs of aging service providers. CIM has customers in Michigan and other states.

Neil Beresin, COLLAGE Program Manager at Kendal Outreach, added, “We have been delighted with the professionalism and depth of experience that CIM brings to the table. In a very short time working with CIM, our members can hardly wait to see their new system. Everyone is confident that the new software will greatly enhance the satisfaction of our current users, as well as rapidly accelerate our growth to many more facilities. Interest in our approach to promoting healthy aging is growing and that is particularly satisfying.”

COLLAGE data provide a framework to incorporate ongoing, systematic, and integrated assessment practices combined with evidence-based interventions in order to improve:

- ability of older adults to remain independent
- overall quality, consistency, and continuity of health services across all levels of care
- effectiveness of programs and services, and
- members' ability to plan for the changing needs of older adults.

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