



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jewish Child & Family Services Achieves National Accreditation

Jewish Child & Family Services has achieved national accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA) – one of the most stringent and highly respected accrediting bodies in the United States and Canada. COA accreditation is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of an agency’s performance. “It represents the highest standards of professional performance, and celebrates our professional excellence, quality services and all the good things we do,” added Sandra Crasko, Senior Director of Quality Improvement and Program Evaluation, Jewish Child and Family Services. “Seeking COA accreditation really pushes us to do better and keeps us on the pulse of best practices.”

The COA accreditation process began 18 months ago, with JCFS first providing written evidence of compliance with COA standards. This was followed by a demanding onsite survey in June conducted by a group of specially trained volunteer Peer Reviewers who analyzed the agency’s administration, management, and service delivery functions against international standards of best practice. The standards driving accreditation ensure that services are well-coordinated, culturally competent, evidence-based, outcomes-oriented, and provided by a skilled and supported workforce. COA accreditation demonstrates accountability in the management of resources, sets standardized best practice thresholds for service and administration, and increases organizational capacity and accountability by creating a framework for ongoing quality improvement.

Based on their findings, COA’s volunteer-based Accreditation Commission voted that JCFS had successfully met the criteria for accreditation. “JCFS is pleased to receive COA accreditation,” stated Ms. Crasko. “We are the 55th agency to voluntarily sign up (since COA was founded) and be accredited. Staff from across our agency continue to work together to strengthen the continuum of care and to deliver and maintain optimal services for those in our community.” Our current accreditation is valid for 4 years.

An endorsement of COA and the value of its accreditation process is reflected in it being named by the US State Department as the sole national independent accrediting body under the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption to accredit intercountry adoption service providers. In addition, COA is the only national accreditor designated by the U.S. Department of Defense to develop accreditation standards and processes for human service programs provided to military personnel and their families.

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent, not-for-profit accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and social service organizations in the United States and Canada. Over 2,000 organizations — voluntary, public, and proprietary; local and statewide; large and small — have either successfully achieved COA accreditation or are currently engaged in the process. Presently, COA has a total of

47 service standards that are applicable to over 125 different types of programs. To learn more about COA, please visit www.COAnet.org.

Jewish Child & Family Services (JCFS) is a partner with the Jewish United Fund in serving our community. JCFS provides vital, individualized, results-driven, therapeutic and supportive services for thousands of children, adults and families of all backgrounds each year, facing challenges with life transitions, mental health, developmental/intellectual disability and basic human need.

Visit jcfs.org or call 855.275.5237.