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State Division of Child Mental Health Services Awarded Three-Year Accreditation

WILMINGTON—The Delaware Children’s Department’s Division of Child Mental Health Services has been awarded a three-year accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). The accreditation, which extends through April 2010, applauds the Division’s dedication and commitment to improving the quality of life for the children served and signifies an established pattern of excellence among the Division’s staff and services.

“Our organization takes great pride in achieving such a high level of accreditation,” said Susan Cycyk, director of the Child Mental Health Services division. “The decision to choose accreditation with CARF was not a mandate but a choice made by our Advisory Council, which includes families, providers, advocacy groups, representatives of our Department and other state agencies, as well as additional interested parties.”

This accreditation represents the highest level of official approval that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the standards established by CARF. An organization receiving a three-year accreditation decision has undergone a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated their services are of the highest quality.

“The report summary we received highlights many of the strengths from which our Division continues to grow,” added Cycyk. “The care and respect shown by our clinical teams at Terry Children Psychiatric Center and Silver Lake Treatment Consortium and our deep commitment to Delaware’s children and families are just a sampling of what have made our accreditation possible. It shows our staff truly embodies the Department’s vision to Think of the Child First.”

CARF is a private, non-profit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value, and optimal outcome of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the person served. At present, CARF has accredited more than 37,000 programs for 4,700 providers at 17,000 locations in the United States, Canada, Europe and South America. More than 100 entities, both governmental and private, have accepted, mandated or endorsed accreditation by CARF.

On any given day, the Delaware Children’s Department provides services to approximately 9,000 children who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, dependent, have mental health or substance abuse problems, and/or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts. Over 22,000 unduplicated children receive services each year through the Children’s Department. Thousands more Delaware children received services from the Department through home-, community-, or school-based prevention and early intervention programs, and child care licensing. For more information, please visit <http://www.kids.delaware.gov>. For more information about CARF, you may go to www.CARF.org

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