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HEALTHY FAMILIES A.C. EARNS TOP MARKS IN NATIONAL REVIEW

Re-Credentialing Process Ranks Program in “Community of Excellence”

Atlantic City families have access to one of the foremost service programs in South Jersey according to the not-for-profit Healthy Families America (HFA). In an extensive on-site and internal review, HFA recognized the high quality of service provided by the Healthy Families Atlantic City program with a Certificate of Credential.

Healthy Families Atlantic City is overseen by its parent agency, the Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative (SNJPC). SNJPC executive director Judy Donlen offered high praise for the program and its achievements.

“This re-certification represents a strong endorsement of the Healthy Families Atlantic City program and the continuum of resources it provides for the families of Atlantic County,” said Donlen. “By providing individualized case management services, Healthy Families Atlantic City educates growing families about child development, healthcare, and appropriate parenting—with remarkable results.”

The three primary goals of Healthy Families are: to promote positive parenting; to enhance child health and development; and to prevent abuse and neglect. The program is working, and the accreditation survey reflects its success.

Atlantic City Medical Center,
City and Mainland Divisions

Cape Regional Medical Center

Cooper Health System

Deborah Heart and Lung Center

Kennedy Health Systems,
Washington Township Campus

Lourdes Medical Center
of Burlington County

Our Lady of Lourdes
Medical Center

Shore Memorial Hospital

South Jersey Healthcare-
Elmer Hospital

South Jersey Healthcare-
Regional Medical Center

The Memorial Hospital
of Salem County

Underwood-Memorial Hospital

Virtua Memorial Hospital
Burlington County

Virtua West Jersey Hospital
Voorhees

In 2006:

- 98.5% of Healthy Families Atlantic City participant households had no substantiated instances of child abuse or neglect
- 100% of children enrolled in the program received biannual developmental screenings
- 100% of children enrolled in the program had a medical home
- 100% of children enrolled in the program were up-to-date with their immunizations

The national Healthy Families America (HFA) program is represented locally in Atlantic County by Healthy Families Atlantic City. HFA programs help expectant and new parents provide healthy home environments for their children, and participation in the program is voluntary. The HFA credentialing process was designed to identify which of its programs perform at the highest standards.

Elizabeth Carrion has participated in Healthy Families Atlantic City through the births of her two children, Edgar and Denise. There were many aspects of motherhood for which she was unprepared, she says—staying home, changing diapers, learning how to handle crying children. She credits the Healthy Families Atlantic City program with helping her adjust to these demands.

“It’s like having another mom,” Carrion says. “Overall the program has made me a more independent parent. I understand more about what could happen to my children, and I pay closer attention to their needs.”

Effective through March 31, 2011, this certificate stands as testament that Healthy Families Atlantic City is one of the top providers of in-home family services in South Jersey. The credentialing process measures the adherence of the program to a set of nationally held, research-based standards for quality of service. It involves an in-depth management examination of the staff, operations, and programs of Healthy Families Atlantic City and was developed in conjunction with the Council on Accreditation of Services for Families and Children, Inc.

“HFA is proud to welcome Healthy Families Atlantic City to the community of excellence: that unique group of programs that meet the highest standards for professional performance.” said HFA president and CEO James M. Hmurovich in a letter of congratulations. “The Healthy Families Atlantic City program is to be commended for opening itself up to such an intensive internal and external review.”

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The Southern New Jersey Perinatal Cooperative (SNJPC) is the state-licensed maternal-child health consortium serving the seven southernmost counties of New Jersey. SNJPC coordinates programs that provide access to perinatal health care, offer public health education, and strengthen families in an effort to improve the perinatal and pediatric health system in its service region. On an individual basis, the Cooperative operates wherever its services are needed, always focused on the greater good—improving health outcomes for every mother and baby in Southern New Jersey and laying the foundation for a higher quality of service. For more information about the Cooperative or its services, please call 856-665-6000 or visit snjpc.org.

Healthy Families America was begun in 1992 as a collaborative effort between the organizations Prevent Child Abuse America and the Ronald McDonald House Charities. This not-for-profit initiative promotes positive parenting, encourages child health and development, and prevents child abuse and neglect.