



Press Release

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Media Contact: Tina Clark, APR

207-783-9141

tclark@tcmhs.org

TCMHS Achieves National Accreditation

Lewiston, ME- Tri-County Mental Health Services has achieved another milestone with the national accreditation through the New York-based Council on Accreditation (COA). The announcement comes after an intensive 18 months of preparation and review. Organizations pursue accreditation to demonstrate the implementation of best practice standards in the field of human services. COA evaluated all aspects of **the agency's** programs, services, management, and administration. Catherine Ryder, Executive Director, publicly announced the news at the HOPE Gala on January 24. ***"This is a testament to each and every person's commitment to excellence and the quality of service we provide. It is an important milestone, a feather in our cap, and it puts us in a strong position for the future," she said.***

COA accreditation is an objective, independent, and reliable validation of an agency's performance. The COA accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of an organization'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.

To achieve COA accreditation, **Tri-County Mental Health Services** first provided written evidence of compliance with the COA Standards. Thereafter, a group of specially trained volunteer Peer Reviewers confirmed adherence to these standards during a series of on-site interviews with trustees, staff and clients.

Tri-County Mental Health Services is Maine's most comprehensive agency dealing with the psychological and social well-being of children, adults, and elders, serving about 10,000 individuals each year. The agency offers innovative programs and services addressing mental health, substance abuse, intellectual disabilities, and more. Its philosophy of building toward recovery and sensitivity to traumatic experiences gives hope to individuals, families, and TCMHS communities. Despite its name, TCMHS reaches far beyond its traditional service area (Androscoggin, Franklin and Oxford) with services in Cumberland and York Counties and beyond. For more information, visit www.tcmhs.org.

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