



For Immediate Release

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The Durham Center Awarded National Accreditation

(Durham, NC) – The Durham Center has been awarded a Three-Year Accreditation for its Services Management Network by CARF International, an independent, nonprofit accrediting body whose mission is to promote the quality, value and optimal outcomes of services through a consultative accreditation process that centers on enhancing the lives of the persons served. In receiving a Three-Year Accreditation, The Durham Center put itself through a rigorous peer review process and demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs are of the highest quality, measurable and accountable.

This accreditation decision represents the highest level of accreditation that can be awarded to an organization and reflects The Durham Center's substantial conformance to CARF standards, which are developed with input from consumers, healthcare professionals, and state and national organizations. In a letter to The Durham Center, CARF stated that "the accreditation is an indication of your organization's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the persons served"...your "services, personnel and documentation clearly indicate an established pattern of practice excellence."

As part of their contracts with the NC Department of Health and Human Services, The Durham Center and other Local Management Entities in North Carolina are required to become nationally-accredited for systems management functions.

According to Ellen S. Holliman, Area Director of The Durham Center, "we are delighted that a widely-respected accrediting organization like CARF has recognized our organization's commitment to quality, a reflection of the professionalism of our staff and their dedication to the citizens of Durham County."

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About The Durham Center

The Durham Center is a Local Management Entity (LME) for mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services in Durham County. When the State of North Carolina began implementing its system reform in these fields in 2001, local area programs like The Durham Center became managers instead of providers of care. The Center is responsible for

managing finances, service authorizations, contracts with direct service providers, service quality and regulatory standards and developing a comprehensive array of services.

The Durham Center's directive is to ensure that local citizens who seek help for mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance abuse receive the quality services and supports for which they are eligible to achieve their goals and to live as independently as possible. The Center contracts with around 200 area service providers and operates Durham Center Access, a 24/7 emergency response system designed to provide immediate access to mental health, developmental disabilities and substance abuse services to children and adults in Durham County.

The Durham Center is a key partner in Durham System of Care.