



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**TRANSITIONS-MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
AWARDED ONGOING THREE-YEAR CARF ACCREDITATION**

San Luis Obispo, CA – CARF International announced that Transitions-Mental Health Association has been accredited once again for a period of three years for Employment Services provided by the Supported Employment Program (SEP). Additionally, the Youth Treatment Program (YTP) was also awarded accreditation as a Residential Treatment Center.

SEP provides on-going job support services necessary for individuals with mental illnesses to choose, get and keep competitive employment, while working in jobs and environments they prefer and with the level of professional support they desire. Services are designed to be client-driven and take into consideration each person's skills, interests, and abilities. SEP serves approximately 200 individuals per year and partners with a wide variety of businesses and community agencies throughout San Luis Obispo and Northern Santa Barbara Counties.

YTP is a 9 bed trauma-informed residential treatment program providing intensive therapeutic services in a restorative environment to adolescents in San Luis Obispo County. This 24-hour program provides individual therapy, family therapy, and supports youth in building safe trusting relationships with caring adults. The program incorporates equine therapy and community involvement in a whole person approach to mental health treatment. CARF Accreditation is one of the required elements of converting YTP to a Short Term Residential Treatment Program in compliance with Continuum of Care Reform standards.

According to CARF this accreditation decision represents the highest level that can be awarded to an organization and shows the organization's substantial conformance to the CARF standards. An organization receiving the Three-Year Accreditation has put itself through a rigorous peer review process and has demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit that its programs and services are of the highest quality, measurable, and accountable.

"This achievement is an indication of your organization's dedication and commitment to improving the quality of the lives of the persons served. Services, personnel, and documentation clearly indicate an established pattern of conformance to standards," Brian Boon, President/CEO of CARF.

"This accomplishment is a feather in SEP's cap," said Frank Ricceri, Division Director for TMHA. "Local employers and other community partners can be assured that the employment services provided by TMHA's SEP program continue to reflect the best practices in the industry, practices that bring the greatest benefit to the clients we serve and the employers that hire them."

This latest accreditation is the third consecutive Three-Year Accreditation that the international accrediting body has awarded to Transitions-Mental Health Association since the reinstatement of the Supported Employment Program in 2006. This is the first year that the Youth Treatment Program was reviewed...and they were also awarded the three year certification.

Examples of identified strengths from the CARF report include:

- TMHA administrative and program staff evidenced a true passion and commitment to delivering quality services to persons served and other stakeholders.
- Consumers reported a high level of satisfaction with services provided by TMHA.

- Employers are pleased with the assistance received from TMHA and state they are willing to give other consumers opportunities they might not have considered before.

About Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities - CARF International

CARF is 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. Founded in 1966 as the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, and now known as CARF, the accrediting body establishes person-focused standards to help organization measure and improve the quality of the programs and services. For more information, visit www.carf.org.

ABOUT TMHA

Transitions-Mental Health Association (TMHA) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating stigma and promoting recovery and wellness for people with mental illness through work, housing, community and family support services. We operate over 35 programs at locations throughout San Luis Obispo and North Santa Barbara counties. The emphasis of our innovative services is to teach vital independent living skills and help build a framework for community re-entry through personal empowerment and hands on experience. Since 1980, TMHA has been dedicated to providing work, housing, case management and life-skills support to teens and adults with mental illness while offering support, resources and education for their loved ones. For more information, visit www.T-MHA.org.

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