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The South Suburban Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse
AWARDED CERTIFICATION FROM THE JOINT COMMISSION

East Hazel Crest, April 22, 2011 – The South Suburban Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse has earned The Joint Commission’s Gold Seal of Approval™ for its substance abuse program by demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission’s national standards for health care quality and safety in Behavioral Health Care. The certification award recognizes The South Suburban Council’s dedication to continuous compliance with The Joint Commission’s state-of-the-art standards.

The South Suburban Council underwent a rigorous on-site survey in January of 2011. A team of Joint Commission expert surveyors evaluated The South Suburban Council for compliance with standards of care specific to the needs of patients and families, including infection prevention and control, leadership and medication management.

"In achieving Joint Commission certification, The South Suburban Council has demonstrated its commitment to the highest level of care for its patients with substance use disorders," says Jean Range, M.S., R.N., C.P.H.Q. executive director, Behavioral Health Care Certification, The Joint Commission. "Certification is a voluntary process and I commend The South Suburban Council for successfully undertaking this challenge to elevate its standard of care and instill confidence in the community it serves."

With Joint Commission certification, The South Suburban Council is making a significant investment in quality on a day-to-day basis from the top down. Joint Commission accreditation provides us a framework to take our organization to the next level and helps create a culture of excellence," says Allen Sandusky, President and CEO of The South Suburban Council. "Achieving Joint Commission certification in Behavioral Health Care, for our organization, is a major step toward maintaining excellence and continually improving the care we provide."

The Joint Commission’s Disease-Specific Care Certification Program, launched in 2002, is designed to evaluate clinical programs across the continuum of care. Certification requirements address three core areas: compliance with consensus-based national standards; effective use of evidence-based clinical practice guidelines to manage and optimize care; and an organized approach to performance measurement and improvement activities.

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 18,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. The Joint Commission also provides certification of more than 1,700 disease-specific care programs, primary stroke centers, and health care staffing services. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation’s oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at www.jointcommission.org.

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