

Specialized Alternatives
for Families & Youth

DATE: February 12, 2015
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For Immediate Release

SAFY receives COA reaccreditation with no deficiencies
Agency commended for providing quality services

(DELPHOS, Ohio) – Specialized Alternatives for Families and Youth (SAFY) is proud to announce it has received reaccreditation from the Council of Accreditation (COA). The family and child service organization earned its highest historical rating, receiving no deficiencies in any service standards.

COA is an international, independent organization which partners with human service providers to improve delivery outcomes by developing, applying, and promoting accreditation standards. COA accreditation signifies an organization's commitment to the health, safety, and clinical rights of those served, as well as an ability to produce high-quality, measurable treatment results.

"Reaccreditation confirms SAFY's commitment to excellence, continuous improvement, and consistent service delivery," says Scott Spangler, President and Chief Executive Officer of SAFY. "It demonstrates the quality of our family- and community-centered services and our ability to provide those services in a way that exceeds the expectations of those we serve."

"An endorsement with no deficiencies is the fulfillment of countless hours of hard work and dedication of many people – most notably our staff and the members of our board and leadership. The achievement exemplifies SAFY's unwavering commitment to Preserving Families and Securing Futures for the youth, families, and communities we serve."

In addition to 778 performance standards, the COA accreditation process involved an in-depth examination of SAFY's compliance with best practice standards in the areas of ethical practice, human resources, financial and risk management, and continuous quality improvement. COA issued positive comments about SAFY, including:

- "While states in which the agency has programs have reduced the number of youth in care, their census and market share has increased because of the quality of care they are known to provide. Net assets have increased significantly over the past two years."
- "SAFY's Performance Quality Improvement (PQI) system provides a comprehensive data-based assessment of their programs' efficiency, effectiveness and achievements that is focused on assuring a culture of quality and continuous improvement throughout the agency."
- "The foster care services are of a consistently high quality, and attention is paid to child well-being and permanency...staff appeared dedicated to delivering excellent services..."
- "The programs provided under the Family Preservation and Stabilization...are clearly focused on the well-being of the families served...Services are culturally responsive and delivered with regard for each families' particular needs and circumstances. The staff has a strong collaborative relationship with referring agencies as well as other community agencies serving the families."
- "The agency's mental health services...have a strong family focus. Psychosocial skill building and community support services provided to clients and families are very helpful adjuncts to the outpatient counseling services."

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**Specialized Alternatives
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SAFY received accreditation for services including: family foster care and kinship care, adoption services, case management services, counseling support and educational services, family preservation and stabilization services, outpatient mental health services, youth independent living services, and network administration. The organization has been accredited by the COA since 1995.

For additional information on SAFY and the programs and services provided, contact Kelly Hackworth at 800-532-7239 or visit www.safy.org.

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