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Pioneering Partnership Recognized with National Registry *Local agencies celebrate NREPP status*

WHEAT RIDGE, Colorado – On June 5, 2014, Jefferson Center for Mental Health, Seniors’ Resource Center and Mental Health Partners celebrated the Senior Reach program and the new status as a National Evidence-based Program through Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration’s (SAMHSA) National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP).

On hand for the celebration were Harriet Hall, CEO of Jefferson Center, John Zabawa, CEO Seniors’ Resource Center, Barbara Ryan, CEO Mental Health Partners, all three key architects in creating the Senior Reach program. Also celebrated were the Senior Reach clinicians, call center staff and community partners along with the project champion, Vicki Rodgers.

“We are now one of only 330 evidence-based programs in the country,” said Vicki Rodgers. “It has taken eight years of working to get to this point.”

NREPP recognizes the proof that Senior Reach works for older adults in Colorado and soon to be nationwide. The program is proudly now among the top tier behavioral health programs in the United States. The program is currently available in Jefferson, Gilpin, Clear Creek, Broomfield and Boulder counties, and will soon be available in Arapahoe and Douglas counties.

Harriet Hall, CEO of Jefferson Center, said partnerships like this are incredibly crucial for mental health services, and it is a great start to getting information out to residents.

What is Senior Reach?

Senior Reach trains Community Partners to identify, outreach, and refer at-risk older adults living on their own. Community Partners can be anyone from restaurant and retail staff, bus drivers, and recreation center staff to primary care physicians, adult protective services and others. If a senior is willing, Senior Reach can assess for any number of support services including mental and physical health care, transportation, medication, help with financial concerns, recreation - *whatever is needed*.

When mental health services are needed, a solution-focused, brief therapy model is used, to address immediate mental health concerns. The trainings, in-home assessments, and therapy are led by licensed mental health professionals.

For more information, access these links: <http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/ViewIntervention.aspx?id=330> or www.seniorreach.org.

What is NREPP?

The National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP) is a searchable online registry of interventions that support mental health promotion, substance abuse prevention, and mental health and substance abuse treatment. Through NREPP, users can identify and learn more about interventions that may meet their needs. All interventions that are included in NREPP have been voluntarily submitted, have met a set of minimum requirements, and have been assessed by independent reviewers.

About Jefferson Center for Mental Health

Celebrating its 56th year, Jefferson Center for Mental Health helps to bring hope for a brighter future to thousands of community members who struggle with mental health challenges. As the community's nonprofit mental health center, Jefferson Center serves people throughout Jefferson, Gilpin and Clear Creek counties at over 20 locations, as well as schools, nursing homes, senior centers and other community settings. Last year Jefferson Center served more than 19,000 people in need. Center staff has expertise in numerous areas including children and family issues, adults with serious mental illness, suicide prevention, early intervention, juvenile justice, and trauma treatment, as well as offers free wellness classes. For more information about Jefferson Center, visit www.jcmh.org.