

## **“Southeast Health Group’s Summer Jam Program receives National Impact Award for Innovation”**

La Junta, CO—March 5, 2013—Southeast Health Group

The Youth & Family Services Team of Southeast Health Group, under the leadership of Youth and Family Services Director, Laura DiPrince, has been recognized by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare’s Awards of Excellence. Chosen from a field of nearly 1,000 applicants, the Summer Jam program was named “Program of Significance” under the “Impact Awards: Excellence in Service Innovation.”

Summer Jam is a respite care and behavioral skills training program for school-age youth with severe emotional and behavioral problems. It provides 12 weeks of therapy and skill-building groups focused on age and ability. Youth attend the program one day a week with their same-age peers to learn about and practice mental wellness--using positive social skills, increasing self-esteem, coping with depression, managing anxiety, dealing with stress and increasing resiliency. During Christmas and Spring Break, youth attend daily for a few hours instead of a full day. The program has been operating in southeastern Colorado since 2010.

Southeast Health Group CEO, Becky Otteman, received a personal phone call from Linda Rosenberg, President & CEO of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> to extend her personal congratulations. “It has been inspiring — and humbling — to learn about each honoree, their positive impact on children, adults, and families living with mental illnesses and addiction disorders and their heroic personal stories,” said Rosenberg.

Otteman and DiPrince will be presented with the award April 9, 2013 at the National Council Conference in Las Vegas, NV, where first lady Rosalynn Carter and Congressman Patrick Kennedy will also be honored. This conference marks the 50th anniversary of the passage of the 1963 Community Mental Health Act.

“The commitment and excellence that the Youth and Family Services team demonstrated is fantastic, but I think that for this organization, that is the standard and not the exception,” said CFO Barry Shiohita. Shiohita was referring to several other Southeast Health Group achievements that have been recognized nationally since 2002. Partnership for Progress, SHG’s substance abuse treatment division, was named “Exceptional Rural Program” by the 2010 Harold E. Hughes Awards of Excellence, National Rural Alcohol and Drug Abuse Network, Inc. Former executive director Bob Whaley was named “2010 Behavioral Healthcare Champion” by the industry journal, Behavioral Healthcare. Southeast Mental Health Services won several national awards when it became a Recovery-oriented system of care: The Timothy J. Coakley Leadership Award (Inaugural 2004, subject of the Policy Paper awarded First Place); The American Psychiatric Association’s Psychiatric Services Award (Silver, 2003); and Eli Lilly’s Lilly Reintegration Award (Second Place in Clinical Medicine, 2002). On November 20, 2003, SEMHS was recognized and proclaimed by Rep. Scott McInnis on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

**Southeast Health Group** is a 501c3 nonprofit healthcare provider serving the citizens of southeastern Colorado since 1957. Southeast Mental Health Services, Partnership for Progress and Wellness Works are the three companies that form Southeast Health Group. As the only comprehensive outpatient provider of substance use disorder, mental health and primary care services, Southeast Health Group served over 3,500 unique individuals and employed a caring and competent staff of 75 during the 2011-12 fiscal year. For more information, call (719) 384-5446 or go to [www.semhs.org](http://www.semhs.org); [www.partnershipforprogress.com](http://www.partnershipforprogress.com); or [www.sewellnessworks.org](http://www.sewellnessworks.org).

**The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare** is the unifying voice of America’s behavioral health organizations. Together with its 1,950 member organizations, the National Council serves our nation’s most vulnerable citizens — more than 8 million adults and children with mental illnesses and addiction disorders. They are committed to providing comprehensive, high-quality care that affords every opportunity for recovery and inclusion in all aspects of community life. For more information, go to [www.nationalcouncil.org](http://www.nationalcouncil.org).

**Laura DiPrince, Diva Garrett & Sarah Voigts (left to right) lead “Minute to Win It!”**



**Summer Jam leaders Sarah Voigts, Brandon Williams & Robin Runk (left to right) get ready to shoot some hoops.**



**Summer Jam youth join hands**



**Youth & Family Services Team Members**

