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Greenville Mental Health Center Wins Prestigious Dartmouth Award

Greenville, SC – Johnson & Johnson-Dartmouth has selected Greenville Mental Health Center (Greenville MHC) as the recipient of the 2014 Achievement Award for its Independent Individual Placement & Supported Employment (IPS) program. Greenville MHC is recognized in collaboration with its vocational rehabilitation partner, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

IPS, which seeks to assist people with mental illnesses back into the workforce, thereby perpetuating recovery, provides consultation, training, and fidelity monitoring for the establishment and growth of patient employment, focusing on evidence-based practices that result in gainful employment in the community. In the four years since Greenville MHC launched its IPS program, several hundred patients have engaged IPS services, with 52% achieving competitive employment over the past year.

“So often, it seems assistance programs can unwittingly confine a person to a life of dependence, isolation, and diminished vision for his or her life,” said Greenville MHC’s Executive Director Al Edwards, M.D. “This program does the exact opposite, by supporting knowledge, independence, integration, and hope. It is in perfect alignment with our Center’s philosophy.”

Deputy Director of Community Mental Health Services Geoffrey J. Mason said, “The success of the SCDMH IPS program in getting clients in competitive employment is well known. This is the second national award that has come to our state, with Charleston Dorchester Mental Health Center winning the IPS Achievement Award in 2008.”

The mission of the Johnson & Johnson-Dartmouth Community Mental Health Program is to increase access to evidence-based supported employment for adults with serious mental illnesses who are interested in improving their work lives. It has been instituted in 14 states, the District of Columbia, and Alameda County, California. The Awards ceremony, which began in 2008, was established to recognize mental health agencies implementing evidence-based supported employment and their vocational rehabilitation partners in the Program.

Greenville MHC, which served 5,402 people in fiscal year 2013, provides mental health services to Greenville County. Operated by the South Carolina Department of Mental Health, the Center is a component of the Agency’s division of Community Mental Health Services. To learn more about Greenville MHC, visit its web site at www.greenvillementalhealth.org.

The South Carolina Department of Mental Health’s mission is to support the recovery of people with mental illnesses, giving priority to adults with serious and persistent mental illness and to children and adolescents with serious emotional disturbances. The Agency serves approximately 100,000 citizens with mental illnesses, including approximately 30,000 children and adolescents, and provides outpatient services through a network of seventeen community mental health centers and numerous clinics. It also operates four hospitals, one community nursing care center, and three veterans’ nursing homes. To learn more about SCDMH, visit www.scdmh.org.