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COMMUNITY HEALTH OF SOUTH FLORIDA INC. BECOMES FIRST FQHC NATIONWIDE TO RECEIVE GOVERNOR'S STERLING AWARD

Miami- Community Health of South Florida Inc. (CHI) is the first Federally Qualified Health Center in the nation to be awarded the coveted Governor's Sterling award. The South Florida not for profit comprehensive health care company has been serving the community for 45 years. The award marks a milestone for the agency as the Sterling award is a difficult accomplishment that only few companies are able to obtain.

Governor Rick Scott and the Florida Sterling Council announced today, CHI is among just three winners including the Big Bend Community Based Care, and Environmental Protection Commission of Hillsborough County. Also, the Pinellas County Tax Collector will receive the Governor's Sterling Sustained Excellence Award.

"The Governor's Sterling Award winners reflect our focus of making Florida the best state in the nation to live, work and raise a family," said Governor Scott. "I am pleased that Florida is leading the nation and I congratulate this year's top-performing Sterling Award recipients. This award is the highest recognition an organization in Florida can receive for performance excellence. The Governor's Sterling Award process is an efficient tool for all organizations that saves Florida businesses millions of dollars annually."

Community Health of South Florida Inc. has utilized data based driven tools and methodology to grow its organization. With 11 health centers and 31 school based centers, CHI offers a wide variety of services including primary care, pediatrics, urgent care, dental, OB/GYN, radiology,

behavioral health, laboratory services, pharmacy, free medication delivery and patient transportation to the residents of Monroe and Dade Counties.

“Community Health of South Florida Inc. has been a trailblazing organization since its inception in 1971, paving the way for innovation, ensuring access for all to comprehensive healthcare and also as a teaching health center, training the next generation of medical professionals,” said Brodes H. Hartley Jr. CHI President/CEO. “The Florida Governor’s Sterling Award confirms decades of hard work and dedication as CHI becomes the first Federally Qualified Health Center to receive this prestigious award. We are so proud of the CHI team for their hard work and commitment to earning the Sterling award.”

In 2014, CHI made headlines when it became the first Health Resources Services Administration designated teaching health center at a Community Health Center in the state of Florida. This is a critical area where doctors are needed to better serve this vulnerable population. CHI is also a Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home, the highest level attainable, and its electronic health record is certified to meet meaningful use requirements.

Community Health of South Florida Inc. was created as resource for the community serving both the insured and uninsured populations. By providing comprehensive services at each of its health centers, patients receive a holistic approach to healthcare in which they can have medical teams from different specialties working toward improving their total health. The organization also has outreach and enrollment specialists that help enroll people in the Affordable Care Act and other insurance plans. In addition, there are a number of programs that help the disadvantaged afford life saving treatments and connect them to points of care.

With more than 800 employees CHI is one of the largest FQHCs in the state. Its mission is to deliver safe, accessible, compassionate and culturally competent quality health care services to the residents of South Florida while training the next generation of health care professionals.

About the Governor’s Sterling Award

Established in 1992, the Florida Sterling Council is a public/private not-for-profit corporation supported by the Executive Office of the Governor. The Council oversees the Governor’s Sterling Award for Performance Excellence, presented annually by the Governor to high performing, role-model organizations, both private and public, who demonstrate superior management approaches and role model results. Sterling’s Conference teaches participants how to elevate performance and increase productivity. The conference concludes with the recognition of best practices, the Team Showcase Champion, and the presentation of the Governor’s Sterling Awards, the highest award an organization can receive for performance excellence in Florida. For more information on Sterling contact John Pieno at (850) 922-5316 or visit www.floridasterling.com.

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