

PRESS RELEASE

BERKSHIRE FARM CENTER & SERVICES FOR YOUTH
13640 Route 22, Canaan, NY 12029
Tel. 518-781-4567



CONTACT: Keith Toomey 518-781-4567 ext. 2542 – ketoomey@berkshirefarm.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth receives full reaccreditation from Council on Accreditation

Canaan, NY -- Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth has received reaccreditation by the Council on Accreditation (COA), an independent international accreditor of community-based behavioral health care and human service organizations.

A statement released by COA noted that it is committed to maintaining the highest level of standards and quality improvement in order to identify providers that have set high performance standards for themselves and have made a commitment to their constituents to deliver the highest quality services. The statement continued, "COA is proud to recognize Berkshire Farm Center and Services for Youth as one of these outstanding providers."

Berkshire Farm Center President and CEO Timothy Giacchetta, who joined Berkshire one year ago, said, "We are all very pleased with receiving the full, four-year reaccreditation. This is an important milestone that demonstrates that Berkshire Farm Center is on the right track and continues to be one of New York State's leading child welfare agencies."

In a message to Giacchetta, COA President/CEO Richard Klarberg said, "Reaccreditation is a tremendous achievement that demonstrates that your organization is recognized as a provider that continues to successfully implement high performance standards and, as such, is delivering the highest quality services to all of its stakeholders."

COA reaccreditation is an objective and reliable verification that provides confidence and support to an organization's service recipients, board members, staff, and community partners. The COA reaccreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of both an organization's administrative operations and its service delivery practices, which are "measured" against numerous national standards of best practice. Berkshire Farm Center addressed more than 800 of these standards. The standards emphasize services that are accessible, appropriate, culturally responsive, evidence-based, and outcomes-oriented. COA notes that they "confirm that the services are provided by a skilled and supported workforce and that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect."

COA reviews and reaccredits the entire organization, not just specific programs, to ensure the credibility, integrity, and achievement of the organization as a whole.

ABOUT COA

Founded in 1977, COA is an independent not-for-profit international accreditor of the full continuum of community-based behavioral health care and human service organizations. Today, over 1800 organizations—public and private—are either COA accredited or are in the process of seeking accreditation. These organizations serve over 7 million of our most vulnerable individuals each year. . . . *more >*



ABOUT BERKSHIRE FARM CENTER (www.berkshirefarm.org)

Berkshire Farm Center & Services for Youth, founded 123 years ago, is a not-for-profit corporation that provides specialized services to at-risk children and their families. Nearly 3,000 boys and girls, from newborn to 21 years of age, are served each year in community-based programs. These children typically have been struggling with behavioral and emotional difficulties, family problems, physical and emotional abuse, substance abuse, and other problems. In addition to these programs, Berkshire's Residential Treatment Center in Canaan, New York serves nearly 200 young men with similar problems each year. They come from urban, suburban, and rural areas throughout New York State. Berkshire's Canaan campus comprises 2,000 acres. The agency has regional and district offices around the state, as well as additional satellite locations, including group homes in Clinton, Columbia, Madison, Monroe, and Washington counties.

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