

- MENTAL HEALTH
- DEVELOPMENTAL
DISABILITIES
- SUBSTANCE ABUSE

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**SOUTHEASTERN CENTER FOR MH/DD/SA AND COASTAL HORIZONS CENTER WIN 2011
EXCELLENCE AWARD FOR PREVENTION OUTREACH AND WELLNESS**

Pinehurst, NC (December 6, 2011) ... Southeastern Center for MH/DD/SA Services and their provider Coastal Horizons Center were recently recognized with a Programs of Excellence Award for Prevention, Outreach and Wellness for their substance abuse prevention services.

The award was presented by the North Carolina Council of Community Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Programs on December 6, 2011 at their annual Conference & Exhibition in Pinehurst, NC.

Coastal Horizons Center (CHC) has a proven track record of successful prevention, outreach and wellness programs in the eastern region of the state. They are skilled at identifying risk groups, reaching individuals to provide testing, linking HIV-positive individuals with health care and case management resources, and providing on-going support. Coastal Horizons has a history of creating alliances both with community partners and with other Opioid Treatment Programs within the Eastern N.C. geographical region in order to offer pre- and post-test HIV counseling, HIV testing, and risk reduction education to those enrolled in an Opioid Treatment Program. The program follows a person-centered model which helps individuals to explore, express, understand, accept, and then reduce their own risk-taking behavior.

Each year the North Carolina Council of Community Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse (MH/DD/SA) Programs seeks to identify innovative and effective community programs that have been instrumental in serving persons with disabilities in North Carolina. Winners are selected by a committee which includes directors and board members of Local Management Entities for MH/DD/SA services.

Other 2011 Programs of Excellence Award winners included: Excellence in Best Practice, East Carolina Behavioral Health, Recovery Innovations Outreach Wellness City; Partnership to Improve Services, The Durham Center, Durham Center Access Assessment Team; Crisis Response, The Durham Center, Durham Center Access Operated by Freedom House; Prevention, Outreach and Wellness Healthy Heads Up, East Carolina Behavioral Health; Community Collaboration to Benefit Non Target Population, Orange Person-Chatham Area Authority's Pro Bono Counseling Network; Consumer Directed Supports, Johnston County Area MH/DD/SA Authority, Stellar Peer Recovery Center; and Public Awareness and Advocacy, Pathways Local Management Entity, Pathways LME Monday Coffee Break.