



The State Office of Rural Health

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bridgette Olson, Outreach Program Manager

303-832-7493 or bo@coruralhealth.org

Colorado Rural Health Center Partners with Southeastern Developmental Services to Observe National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Celebrate March as national Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month and raise awareness about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Denver, Colo – The Colorado Rural Health Center (CRHC) has partnered with Southeastern Developmental Services, to announce its support for National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. This month serves to promote awareness of the strengths and achievements of Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

President Ronald Reagan declared March to be Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in 1987 to offer individuals with disabilities both encouragement and the opportunities they need to lead productive lives and to achieve their full potential.

“CRHC is proud to partner with Southeastern Developmental Services to recognize the many individuals throughout Colorado communities who receive services that help them make the most of their abilities, as well as to raise public awareness about their challenges and barriers to success,” says Michelle Mills, CRHC’s chief executive officer.

“That is why CRHC is also recognizing Southeastern Developmental Services as this month’s featured member,” Mills adds. Each month, CRHC recognizes one of its members whose work supports the CRHC’s vision that all rural Coloradans have access to comprehensive, affordable, high quality healthcare.

“We have a strong commitment to ensure all vulnerable populations have access to the care they need,” emphasizes Mills. “Our partnership with Southeastern Developmental Services has proven to be an important collaboration.”

Southeastern Developmental Services (SDS), located in Lamar, Colorado, provides an array of developmental services and case management. SDS operates six residential group homes, offers educational activities through their Day Program, and manages a Community Integrated Employment Program.

“We strive to assist each individual in achieving their fullest potential for vocational and integrated living,” says Kim Engsborg, executive director at SDS.

According to Engsborg, National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize people with developmental disabilities and build more welcoming communities through education and outreach.

“During Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, we urge everyone to get to know someone with a disability,” insists Engsborg.

SDS approaches care delivery through a holistic team approach. “We have a great team of dedicated and skilled employees at SDS,” adds Engsborg.

“To achieve our mission, we strive to attract and retain honest, skilled, and dedicated employees that embody our commitment to treating each person that we serve as an individual, constantly balancing each individual’s goals with their medical and psychological wellbeing.”

SDS has current openings for Direct Service Professionals To inquire or learn more about SDS visit <http://www.sdscsb.org/index.html>.

About Southeastern Developmental Services

Southeastern Developmental Services, Inc. supports individuals with developmental disabilities within their local communities, to assist in the person achieving their fullest potential for vocational and integrated living, and becoming an integral and responsible community citizen. Southeastern Developmental Services prides itself in treating each person as an individual, approaching care delivery through a holistic team approach.

About Colorado Rural Health Center

The Colorado Rural Health Center was established in 1991 as Colorado's State Office of Rural Health. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, CRHC's serves dual roles as the State Office of Rural Health with the mission of assisting rural communities in addressing healthcare issues; and as the State Rural Health Association, advocating for policy change to ensure that rural Coloradoans have access to comprehensive, affordable healthcare services of the highest quality. For more information visit www.coruralhealth.org, call 303-832-7493, or call toll free 800-851-6782 from rural Colorado.

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