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Legacy Community Health Receives Gold Certification for Adolescent Health Service

Adolescent Health Initiative certification focuses on quality care for adolescent patients

HOUSTON (September 29, 2020) – Legacy Community Health’s Montrose clinic has received a Gold-Level Certification as an Adolescent-Centered Environment. As defined by the [Adolescent Health Initiative](#), Adolescent-Centered Environments are inclusive of, informed by, and responsive to the needs and values of adolescents. Adolescent-Centered Environments also effectively provide comprehensive services for adolescents, aiming to provide a higher level quality of care.

With the support of the Adolescent Health Initiative and the Texas Youth Friendly Initiative, Legacy Community Health has taken great measures to ensure that high-quality, youth-friendly care is delivered to all adolescent patients, regardless of family income, race, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, background, or religion.

Clinics involved in the certification program participate in the Adolescent Champion Model, an 18-month process consisting of a multi-faceted intervention to address a health center’s environment, policies, practices, and culture. This includes supporting improvements in staff knowledge and attitudes around providing adolescent care as well as patient satisfaction with services received. “Adolescence is a period of emancipation; when youth acquire the physical, emotional and practical skills to navigate life independently. This is what all parents want for their kids,” says Dr. Jennifer Feldmann, Service Line Lead of Legacy’s Adolescent Pediatric Program. “At this point in their lives, it’s crucial they receive competent care that is judgement-free and empowering. Through this process, we can bring up health-literate young adults who are involved in their care, with the ultimate goal of making their transition into adulthood – and into the position of stewards of their own care –easier to comprehend.”

Legacy’s Bissonnet clinic (12667 Bissonnet St) was also honored. AHI presented Bissonnet with a Silver Certification.

There are 11 certification requirements including requiring minor-related confidentiality training, extended hours for adolescent care, and methods implemented for gathering feedback from adolescent patients, among others. Facilities with a Gold rating demonstrate all 11 requirements; facilities with Silver demonstrated 10 of 11; Bronze demonstrated nine of the 11. Facilities with fewer than nine of the 11 requirements did not place.

Kaleigh Cornelison, Program Specialist with Adolescent Health Initiative shares, “One of our core values at AHI is collaboration and it has been a joy to collaborate with all of our partners in Texas to implement the Adolescent Champion Model. It’s amazing to see the accomplishments

of all of these clinics throughout their work on this project and we're excited to see what other successes can come out of our partnerships in Texas moving forward.”

More information about the organization and/or its model is available on the project website: www.healthytxyouth.org.

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About Legacy Community Health

Legacy Community Health (Legacy) is a full-service network of community health clinics offering primary and specialty care in the Texas Gulf Coast region. Services include adult primary care, behavioral health services, community outreach, dental care, endocrinology, gender health, geriatrics, comprehensive HIV/AIDS care, nutrition and wellness, OB/GYN and maternity care, pediatrics, pharmacy, public health, school-based health, social services, and vision care. With more than 40 locations across Houston, Baytown, Deer Park, and Beaumont, Legacy is the largest Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Texas. Legacy has been a United Way-affiliated agency since 1990. To learn more, visit www.legacycommunityhealth.org.