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## **AURORA MENTAL HEALTH CENTER RECEIVES 2014 OUTSTANDING ORGANIZATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

*Aurora Mental Health Center Recognized By Mental Health First Aid Colorado*

Aurora, CO – The Aurora Mental Health Center has received the Mental Health First Aid Colorado 2014 Outstanding Organizational Achievement Award for its dedication to making the Mental Health First Aid program a priority. This statewide award was presented to Aurora Mental Health Center at the Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council's 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Behavioral Health Training Conference in late-September.

The Mental Health First Aid program is an international, public education curriculum committed to empowering individuals to identify, understand, and respond to those experiencing mental health and substance abuse crises. The Mental Health First Aid 2014 Outstanding Organizational Achievement Award recognizes organizations that effectively integrate the Mental Health First Aid vision into the groundwork of their agency.

“Mental Health First Aid is an amazingly effective award winning program that has enabled us to outreach into the community and provide tools for organizations, individuals and businesses. The classes can help anyone understand mental illness and the specific steps that can be taken to support those in our community,” said Aurora Mental Health Center CEO/Executive Director Dr. Randy Stith. “People sometimes feel powerless when faced with a friend, loved one or colleague who is experiencing a challenge with their mental health. Mental Health First Aid is a priority for Aurora Mental Health Center because it gives participants tools, language and skills to make a positive impact in a time of need.”

To date, 82 Mental Health First Aid courses have been delivered through Aurora Mental Health Center’s 15 trainers, resulting in 1,232 individuals being certified in the Mental Health First Aid curriculum. Thanks to grant funding, this year Aurora Mental Health Center is able to offer Mental Health First Aid completely free of charge.

The Aurora Mental Health Center is a private, nonprofit organization that understands the impact of mental illness on individuals, families and the community at-large. For almost four decades, Aurora Mental Health Center has provided support, strength, encouragement, and care to individuals of all ages who are struggling with mental illness. This year, the organization helped more than 17,000 people in our community live life to the fullest!

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