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USF STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES ACHIEVES AAAHC ACCREDITATION

TAMPA, Fla. (Jan. 7, 2020) – University of South Florida Student Health Services has been accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC). The accreditation is the fourth consecutive three-year accreditation that the international accrediting body has given to USF, distinguishing the university ambulatory clinic from many other outpatient facilities through its adherence to rigorous standards of care and safety.

Located on USF’s Tampa campus, Student Health Services is staffed by 65 competent and caring professionals administering a wide range of high quality evidenced-based medical, counseling, prevention and wellness services to students to support collegiate success and sustained wellness. Status as an accredited organization means Student Health Services has met nationally recognized standards for the provision of quality health care set by AAAHC.

“Student Health Services is most pleased to be accredited once again as we strive to provide the best quality care for the students at USF,” said Joseph Puccio, MD and executive director of Student Health Services. “Our professionals truly work hard to ensure our clinic supports students’ success, and accreditation confirms the exceptional model we have established.”

Organizations like USF Student Health Services that earn AAAHC accreditation embody the spirit of *1095 Strong*, a transformational movement and call-to action spearheaded by the AAAHC to equip ambulatory leaders with the best of what they need to operationalize quality practices. The three-year (or 1,095-day) period between accreditations is a critical time when ambulatory health organizations, with

help from proven experts, can develop the kind of everyday habits that enable leaders in the industry to provide the utmost in quality care to their patients.

Ambulatory health care organizations seeking AAAHC Accreditation undergo an extensive self-assessment and onsite survey by AAAHC expert surveyors – physicians, nurses and administrators who are actively involved in ambulatory care. The survey is peer-based and educational, presenting best practices to help an organization improve its care and services.

While an on-site survey is an important component of the accreditation process, ongoing compliance and continuous improvement are part of the accreditation maintenance mindset that a facility should integrate into its daily activities long after the survey has been completed. The intent of accreditation is for organizations to adopt policies and procedures that fuel ongoing quality improvement and self-evaluation.

About AAAHC

Founded in 1979, AAAHC is the leader in ambulatory health care accreditation, with more than 6,100 organizations accredited. We accredit a wide range of outpatient settings, including ambulatory surgery centers, office-based surgery facilities, endoscopy centers, student health centers, medical and dental group practices, community health centers, employer-based health clinics, retail clinics, and Indian/Tribal health centers, among others.

AAAHC advocates for the provision of high-quality health care through the development and adoption of nationally recognized standards. We provide a valuable survey experience founded on a peer-based, educational approach to on-site review. The AAAHC Certificate of Accreditation demonstrates an organization's commitment to providing safe, high-quality services to its patients—every day of the 1,095-day accreditation cycle. It is recognized by third party payers, medical professional associations, liability insurance companies, state and federal agencies, and the public. For more information on AAAHC, visit www.aaahc.org.