Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority Wins National Award for Excellence in Health Information Technology

Flagstaff, AZ – Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) has been recognized by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare as the winner of the 2010 Award of Excellence in Health Information Technology which includes a $10,000 grant sponsored by Qualifacts Systems, Inc. NARBHA is being acknowledged for the development and expansion of NARBHAnet, an innovative telemedicine program.

“We are proud to help recognize NARBHA’s leadership in the health information technology arena,” said David Klements, President and CEO of Qualifacts Systems Inc. “Looking at the future of healthcare reform and economic stimulus, healthcare IT will truly blossom as providers adopt and innovate with new technologies like NARBHAnet.”

NARBHA, a private, non-profit, managed care organization under contract with the Arizona Department of Health Services/Division of Behavioral Health Services, is responsible for the planning, implementation, funding, monitoring and administration of a publicly funded comprehensive behavioral health services in northern Arizona. NARBHA developed NARBHAnet to address the shortage of psychiatric care in the rural area it serves (62,000 square miles).

NARBHAnet allows practitioners to see patients at remote locations through two-way, interactive videoconferencing, sparing both practitioners and patients the time and expense of long-distance travel and giving patients ready access to psychiatric services in their own communities. Thirteen years after its inception, NARBHA’s telemedicine network has accommodated over 50,000 clinical psychiatric sessions, with approximately 8,000 sessions scheduled in the past year by 12 practitioners. The network has expanded from 6 to 51 sites and saves over $240,000 per year in practitioner travel costs.

“NARBHAnet has been recognized as a national leader in telemedicine, been listed among Telemedicine and Telehealth Networks Magazine’s “Top Ten” Telemedicine Programs, and been featured in The New York Times. It was the first interactive telemedicine network in Arizona, and includes a website (www.rbha.net) offering tips and advice, semi-annual “Telespsychiatry Basics” seminars, a web-based videoconference scheduler and use of the network to provide American Sign Language interpretation services to remote mental health providers.

NARBHAnet will result in better care for more individuals and families living with mental illness and addictions in Arizona.”

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Tickets for the Gala can be purchased with your conference registration, www.thenationalcouncil.org/conference. To purchase individual tickets, contact Shellee Chen, 202-684-3722, shelleec@thenationalcouncil.org.

For more information on the 2010 National Council Award winners, and to view winners from previous years, please go to www.thenationalcouncil.org/awards.

Link to view the 2009 Awards Dinner Program.
"We are proud that this program makes efficient use of taxpayer dollars while improving the quality of care for our clients," said Mick Pattinson, Ph.D., CEO, Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority.

The National Council Awards of Excellence recognizes mental health and addictions treatment providers, like NARBHA, who are implementing innovative technology to improve their organization and the communities they serve.

The Award of Excellence will be formally presented to Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority on March 16, 2010 during the Fabulous Forty Gala at the 40th annual conference of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare in Orlando, Florida.

The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) association of 1,700 behavioral healthcare organizations that provide treatment and rehabilitation for mental illnesses and addictions disorders to nearly six million adults, children and families in communities across the country. The National Council and its members bear testimony to the fact that medical, social, psychological and rehabilitative services offered in community settings help people with mental illnesses and addiction disorders recover and lead productive lives.

Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority (NARBHA) was founded in 1967. It is a private, not-for-profit managed care corporation designated by the Arizona Department of Health Services as being responsible for the planning, implementation, funding, monitoring and administration of publicly funded comprehensive behavioral health services in Northern Arizona. NARBHA serves over 700,000 people throughout 62,000 square miles (or ½ of the state) of northern Arizona, including the Hopi Reservation. NARBHA subcontracts with eleven Responsible Agencies (RAs), over 70 additional behavioral health providers, and operates under Memorandums of Understanding (MOU) with ten Native American tribes, offering choice of services to members throughout northern Arizona.

Qualifacts Systems Inc. develops and delivers web-based enterprise software for providers in the behavioral health and human services market. Qualifacts’ CareLogic services are comprehensive, integrated clinical, financial, and administrative information management systems which improve clinical workflow, revenue cycle management, and operational transparency. Visit www.qualifacts.com for more information.
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