



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Nov. 19, 2013

Contact: Sarana Schell, 907-269-8041, cell 907-398-1480, sarana.schell@alaska.gov

Alaska Psychiatric Institute recognized for high quality care in 2012

Hospital is in top third in national performance rankings

ANCHORAGE — The Joint Commission, a national accreditation nonprofit, recognized Alaska Psychiatric Institute for meeting performance measures in 2012 that are linked to patients doing well. API's designation as a "Top Performer on Key Quality Measures" means the hospital is using evidence-based clinical processes to improve care. The hospital met performance measures 99.1 percent of the time. For example, the agency said, the hospital discharged patients 1,614 times in 2012, and issued a continuing care plan 99.7 percent of the time.

The performance recognition "demonstrates API's commitment to assuring that evidence-based interventions are delivered in the right way and at the right time," The Joint Commission wrote.

The Joint Commission is a nonprofit organization that said it accredits and certifies more than 20,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States. The accreditation process evaluates an organization's commitment to meeting certain performance standards.

API was one of five Alaska hospitals ranked in the top 33 percent of hospitals nationwide that are accredited by The Joint Commission for their care specialties and that reported accountability measure performance data for 2012.

"This recognition reflects the professionalism of API staff and their dedication to the best possible patient care," said Ron Hale, acting director of the hospital.

The hospital provides inpatient psychiatric care for adults and teens. Services include crisis stabilization; evaluation of mental competency to stand trial for alleged criminals; and intensive, ongoing treatment by patient-directed care teams of professionals and peer support workers.

###

DHSS is now on Twitter. Follow health updates at www.twitter.com/Alaska_DHSS.