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NEWS RELEASE

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Swanson Center for Youth Recommended for ACA Accreditation

Swanson Center for Youth in Monroe and its satellite facility in Columbia will be recommended for re-accreditation by the American Correctional Association (ACA) after an exhaustive audit this week, announced Office of Juvenile Justice (OJJ) Deputy Secretary Dr. Mary L. Livers.

A team of ACA auditors found the facility to be 100 percent compliant on 38 mandatory standards and 99.7 percent compliant on 329 non-mandatory standards. OJJ staff must still appear before the ACA Commission on Accreditation for Corrections, which will make the final award of reaccreditation at its annual conference. Accreditation is valid for three years. Swanson was last re-accredited in 2011.

The 38 mandatory and 329 non-mandatory standards cover all aspects of the facility, including treatment, safety, medical and mental health care, as well as environmental factors.

“I am very pleased with the audit findings,” Dr. Livers said. “The Swanson team has worked hard to continue their adherence to the high standards required to be accredited and maintain accreditation. Re-accreditation is not a given, and Swanson Director Vickie Shoecraft and her team work every day to meet the agency’s mission of providing safe, effective services to youth, who will become productive, law-abiding citizens. I am very proud of the staff and youth at Swanson, and I congratulate them on this achievement.”

OJJ Assistant Secretary Sean Hamilton, who oversees operations of OJJ’s secure care facilities, said, “I want to congratulate the entire Swanson Monroe and Columbia team on another successful ACA audit. What they have accomplished supports and validates our commitment to excellence in maintaining a high degree of treatment and operational fidelity, by meeting nationally recognized juvenile justice standards. My thanks to all at Swanson for continuing to meet the OJJ mission. We are so proud of the staff and youth there for this accomplishment.”

ACA is the oldest and largest correctional association in the world, serving all disciplines within the profession and dedicated to excellence. ACA’s greatest strength is development of national standards and implementation of the accreditation process. Through accreditation, agencies are able to maintain a balance between protecting the public and providing an environment that safeguards the life, health and safety of staff and offenders. ACA standards reflect practical, up-to-date policies and procedures, and function as a management tool for over 1,500 correctional agencies throughout the nation.