



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release**  
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**Contact: Sasheika Eugent**  
**Community & Public Relations Specialist**  
**(954) 288-5161**

### ***CHILDNET ACCREDITED BY THE COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION*** ***Broward County's Community Based Care Lead Agency becomes first*** ***Lead Agency with case management to receive accreditation***

PLANTATION – ChildNet's commitment to deliver the highest quality of service to Broward County's children and families has officially been recognized by the Council on Accreditation (COA). ChildNet, the private, not for profit organization created to manage the child welfare system in Broward County, becomes the first ever Community Based Care lead agency with case management to be accredited by the Council.

Accreditation is an objective and reliable verification that provides confidence and support to an organization's service recipients, board members, staff and community partners. Emilio Benitez, ChildNet's Chief Executive Officer, believes that accreditation boosts the community's confidence in the agency's credibility and reaffirms its high performance standards that guarantee the delivery of quality services. "For the many vulnerable families and children that we serve, COA accreditation translates to an assurance that they are receiving the highest quality service from a skilled workforce."

During the COA Site visit, one of the reviewers noted that, in his 26 years as a COA reviewer, ChildNet was the best agency he has reviewed and recommended that COA expedite ChildNet's accreditation and recognize the agency for its innovative methods in performing child welfare at its upcoming national conference.

ChildNet joins an elite group of 1800 organizations – public and private – that are either COA accredited or are in the process of seeking accreditation. The COA accreditation process involves a detailed review and analysis of both an organization's administrative operations and its service delivery practices. All are "measured" against national standards of best practice. These standards emphasize services that are accessible, appropriate, culturally responsive, evidence based, and outcomes-oriented. In addition, they confirm that the services are provided by a skilled and supported workforce and that all individuals are treated with dignity and respect.

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ChildNet is the private, not for profit organization that administers the child welfare system in Broward County. Its mission is to protect Broward's abused, abandoned and neglected children. ChildNet manages the cases of approximately 2,000 children and their caregivers and delivers a comprehensive local system of care through subcontracts with more than 30 social service agencies. Since its founding in 2003, Broward County's abused children are safer, their placements are more stable and they move to permanent, loving homes more quickly. ChildNet is accredited by the Council on Accreditation. For more information about ChildNet and its services, visit [www.ChildNet.us](http://www.ChildNet.us) or call (954) 414-6000