



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

For Immediate Release

Press Contact: Cletisha Lovelace

(804) 726-7302

Virginia Announces Top Ten Ranking Hospitals for Exceptional Paternity Establishment Rates

Richmond, VA. (August 6, 2018) – The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), in conjunction with the Virginia Paternity Establishment Program (VPEP), recently announced the top ten Virginia hospitals recognized for outstanding performance in paternity establishment for 2017. Each of these hospitals accomplished paternity establishment rates greater than 80 percent.

VDSS' Division of Child Support Enforcement (DCSE) manages VPEP, which is operated by the Center for the Support of Families, Inc. (CSF). VPEP gives unmarried parents the opportunity to establish paternity for their newborns by voluntarily acknowledging fatherhood during the mother's hospital stay.

The Commonwealth has a total of 60 birthing hospitals that serve families throughout Virginia. "We are pleased to have such a good and strong partnership with CSF, and applaud Virginia's birthing hospitals for their valuable commitment in assisting parents with paternity establishment," said VDSS Commissioner Duke Storen. In addition, Craig Burshem, VDSS Deputy Commissioner for Child Support, reflected on the impact paternity establishment has on the child and family as a whole. "Paternity establishment gives a child the right to know and be known by his or her father, improves the child's self-esteem, and provides access to family medical information, all of which can be life changing," said Burshem.

The hospital achieving the highest rate in 2017 is Twin County Regional, located in Galax, VA, which averaged a paternity establishment rate of 85.7%. Jennifer Adams, BSN, RN, Twin County Regional Healthcare's Director of Women's Health Services stated, "Twin County Regional Healthcare (TCRH) is proud to be recognized as first in the state for the Virginia Paternity Establishment Program during 2017. Our Women's Health Unit is dedicated to providing high-quality, personalized care for our patients and families. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Martha Moore, TCRH Birth Registrar, for her outstanding efforts assisting families."



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL SERVICES

2017 Virginia Births by Facility Hospital Voluntary Paternity Establishment

| <u>Ranking</u> | <u>Facility Name</u> | <u>Total # of Unmarried Births</u> | <u>Establishment Rate</u> | <u>Total % of Unmarried Parents</u> |
|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | TWIN COUNTY REGIONAL HOSPITAL | 105 | 85.7% | 43.8% |
| 2 | LEWIS-GALE HOSPITAL-MONTGOMERY | 157 | 85.4% | 30.7% |
| 3 | INOVA FAIR OAKS HOSPITAL | 505 | 85.0% | 15.7% |
| 4 | FAUQUIER HOSPITAL, INC. | 199 | 84.9% | 28.8% |
| 5 | CLINCH VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER | 122 | 84.4% | 41.9% |
| 6 | WYTHE COUNTY COMMUNITY HOSPITAL | 164 | 84.1% | 46.3% |
| 7 | INOVA LOUDOUN HOSPITAL, LANSDOWNE | 569 | 83.0% | 20.9% |
| 8 | 633RD MEDICAL GROUP | 128 | 82.8% | 12.8% |
| 9 | RESTON HOSPITAL CENTER | 419 | 82.3% | 12.9% |
| 10 | WINCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER, INC. | 798 | 81.8% | 36.8% |

###