



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Name: Joron Planter
Phone: (804) 726-7934
Email: joron.planter@dss.virginia.gov

Top Ten Ranking Virginia Hospitals Recognized for Exceptional Paternity Establishment Rates

Richmond, Va. (May 20, 2015)—The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS), in conjunction with the Virginia Paternity Establishment Program (VPEP), announced today the top ten Virginia hospitals that are being recognized for outstanding performance in paternity establishment for 2014. These hospitals, located throughout the Commonwealth, each accomplished paternity establishment rates greater than 80 percent.

VDSS' Division of Child Support Enforcement 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 58 birthing hospitals serving parents throughout Virginia. "We value our partnership with Virginia's birthing hospitals and appreciate their strong commitment to establishing paternity for the children of our Commonwealth," said VDSS Deputy Commissioner Craig Burshem. "All children deserve the benefits of having both parents active in their lives. Paternity establishment helps ensure that fathers and mothers share the responsibility of providing their children with the emotional, physical and financial support they need to grow and thrive."

The hospital achieving the highest rate in 2014 is Warren Memorial Hospital - Valley Health in Front Royal, Virginia. "Once again we are so pleased to be recognized for our outstanding performance in regards to the Paternity Establishment Program. Women's Care Center nurses work closely with the mother and father to strive for positive outcomes," said Kim Shirley, Director of the Women's Center.

The top ten ranked hospitals for 2014 are:

2014 Virginia Births by Facility Hospital Voluntary Paternity Establishment

Ranking	Hospital Name	Total Number of AOPs Accepted	2014 Paternity Establishment Rate
1	Warren Memorial Hospital - Valley Health	190	85.59%
2	Lewis Gale Hospital Montgomery	130	83.87%
3	Fauquier Hospital, Inc.	226	83.70%
4	Twin County Regional Hospital	143	83.63%
5	INOVA Loudoun Hospital	432	82.76%
6	Sentara Rockingham Memorial Hospital	474	82.15%
7	Augusta Health Medical	384	82.05%
8	Reston Hospital Center	347	82.03%
9	Sentara Princess Anne Hospital	716	80.90%
10	Winchester Medical Center - Valley Health	699	80.90%

For a complete listing of Virginia's 58 birthing hospitals and their respective rankings, or to find out more information about the Virginia Paternity Establishment Program, please visit www.vapaternity.org.

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) www.dss.virginia.gov Home Office is located in Richmond and administers social services programs, consistent with Federal and State law and policy of the State Board of Social Services through 120 local departments of social services (LDSS) throughout the state. VDSS mission is "People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse and neglect to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities."

###