

5 Ways Accreditation is helping Behavioral Health Organizations

- 1. Validates Quality and Safety:** Achieving accreditation improves credibility and helps establish your reputation by providing an external validation of the quality and safety of the care, treatment or services your organization provides. This also helps differentiate your organization from others for marketing and investment/financing purposes.
- 2. Provides an opportunity to review and strengthen your practices:** The accreditation process helps organizations to create strong business systems that support staff in providing excellence in care delivery. It can help create a culture of excellence based in gathering and using data for continuous process improvement.
- 3. Reduces Risk:** Accreditation can help organizations integrate greater risk reduction activities into daily operations. Many liability insurers offer discounts for organizations who have achieved national accreditation.
- 4. Creates Continuity:** Compliance with accreditation requirements can help standardize operations across different departments, staff and/or locations, improving efficiency and positioning the organization for further growth.
- 5. Expands Reimbursement Options:** Accreditation is increasingly being used as an indicator of quality by third party payers (insurers, Medicaid, TRICARE, etc) as a condition of payment approval, to qualify for contracts, or to achieve higher reimbursement in tiered systems. It can also help you network with other providers across the health care continuum to build referrals.

WHAT DO OTHERS SAY?

"Joint Commission accreditation is the highest standard of excellence that you can have in the field. It gives you a competitive advantage. It raises the bar in your facility, and it improves patient outcomes. It also forces our staff to keep their eyes focused, and in the world of behavioral health, it's really easy to get distracted by the crisis of the day. So it is an ever present reminder of what we're working towards, and that's excellence."

And one of the best parts about the Joint Commission for us is having our rep so quickly available. I don't ever feel like I'm floating on an island trying to figure this out on my own. The Joint Commission's customer service is excellent, and that's made it easy to maintain compliance."

Amy Kobold, Director, Performance Improvement, Unison Behavioral Health Group, Toledo, Ohio