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Local Parents as Teachers Program Earns Blue Ribbon Designation and Shares Lived Experience in National Conversation

SOUTH CENTRAL IDAHO – South Central Public Health District (SCPHD) has been awarded Blue Ribbon Affiliate status by Parents as Teachers, the largest evidence-based early childhood home visiting program in the United States. The distinction recognizes the organization's highest standards for quality and model fidelity, making SCPHD one of the top-performing home visiting affiliates within the Parents as Teachers international network. This is the second time SCPHD has received the award.

The in-depth Quality Endorsement Improvement Process, which affiliates complete every five years to ensure alignment to organizational requirements, identifies programs that reach benchmarks of excellence in quality service to the families in their communities. A designation as Blue Ribbon Affiliate confirms that SCPHD's Parents as Teachers (PAT) program implements the evidence-based model with fidelity, and that families in South Central Idaho are positively impacted by the services delivered by this program.

The PAT program includes home visits, group connections, child screening, and connections to community resources. It equips parents with knowledge and resources to prepare their children for a stronger start in life and greater success in school.

Separately, local SCPHD PAT program representatives were invited to participate in a national-level conversation in Washington, D.C. with Thomas J. Engels, Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The conversation focused on the lived realities of home visiting, including highlighting how relationship-based support, early literacy, and parent education positively impact families during the formative early years.

“Being trusted to carry the stories of our team and the families we serve into national conversations was such an honor. I’m deeply grateful for the opportunity to help ensure parents’ voices are heard and considered at the national level as policies are developed,” said Kelsi Alexander, SCPHD PAT Program Manager.



Together, the SCPHD PAT program's Blue Ribbon designation and the national invitation to HRSA underscore the local program's leadership within the Parents as Teachers network. Overall, the most important part of PAT is the caring dedication to the local families that they serve. SCPHD's Parents as Teachers program affirms its ongoing commitment to supporting families and strengthening the communities of South Central Idaho.

The Parents as Teachers program currently has six openings for families with children ages Zero–Kindergarten. Participation is free and voluntary. For more information, please contact Kelsi Alexander at 208-737-5982.

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