

Sample of Winning Salute to Excellence Nomination Write Up

The following write up was submitted by an ABH Member Organization for our Salute to Excellence 2020. The nominee was ultimately chosen as a Salute to Excellence 2020 award recipient. Please refer to this as an example of a successful nomination write up. Some information, including the organization name and recipient name(s), has been redacted for this purpose.

Salute to Excellence Nomination Form 2020

I would like to make a nomination for:

Excellence in Perseverance

I am nominating an/a:

Group

Names and contact information of group members being nominated:

<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Position / Title</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
First Name A	Last Name A	Position / Title A	Email A	Phone Number A
First Name B	Last Name B	Position / Title B	Email B	Phone Number B

Describe the group and why it is deserving of recognition:

This remarkable team of Direct Care staff at **[Organization Name]** opened our emergency COVID positive program for children involved in DCF care. The display of courage was nothing short of remarkable. These direct care staff worked an average of 48 hours a week for 9 weeks. Due to the COVID positive status of the youth and young adults, this presented a significant risk to these direct care staff and their families, and as a result they stayed in a hotel for the 9 weeks and were unable to spend time with friends and family. They were faced with having to learn new emergency COVID policies, increased training in PPE procedures, training on how to take vital signs, and how to safely care for youth while they resided in the program. Intakes were on emergency bases, and they were often age ranges that differ from **[Organization Name]**'s typical residential population which is adolescents 12-18. One emergency weekend intake was for two 8

year twins who had non-verbal autism, not toilet trained and could not perform ADL's. These staff bathed, spoon fed and changed diapers without once expressing any frustration. They created an incredibly safe environment for up to 6 COVID positive clients at any one time. Over the course of the 9 weeks this program was in operation, these remarkable staff served a total of 12 COVID positive clients. They did this alone and without in-person administration and nursing staff. The nursing and clinical staff had to support this program remotely due to the inability to provide in-person services in this program and then have to provide care and potentially expose the other 80 youth at **[Organization Name]**. This COVID positive program opened up within 3 weeks of DCF seeking urgent help with placement for this population. This occurred at a time where PPE was in short supply and COVID was still very new and creating tremendous fear in people. The courage and perseverance this team showed was such an inspiration to the entire agency and they received tremendous kudos from DCF and EOHHS for their willingness to take this on. While many of our employees were able to work remotely and safely stay home, these 8 staff volunteered to take on the staffing of this program. They did this because of their profound commitment to kids and families. This team did an incredible job keeping these 12 clients safe, healthy and comfortable while they recovered from COVID. They also followed every procedure and policy and all 8 remained safe and healthy for the entire duration of the program being open. **[Organization Name]** is beyond grateful to these staff and we are so proud of the work they did on behalf of kids and families. It is an honor to nominate them for this award.