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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

Neighborhood House Association Begins Operation of San Diego County Black Infant Health Program

The Neighborhood House Association (NHA) is the new contractor and operator of San Diego County Black Infant Health. Effective July 1st, NHA officially began working directly with the County of San Diego to run the 24 year-old program, which provides case management to African-American mothers and mothers-to-be. According to County statistics, African-American infants are more than twice as likely to die during their first year of life compared to all of San Diego County's infants combined. Services are now provided out of the Euclid Medical Center, located at 286 Euclid Avenue, Suite 308, San Diego, CA 92114.

NHA's newest service will be housed with one of its flagship programs: NHA Early Head Start Services to Pregnant Women and Home-Based programs. With many years of experience aiding pregnant women and new mothers, NHA looks forward to creating a seamless linkage between the Black Infant Health and Head Start programs that will expand the care provided to an at-risk and underserved population in San Diego County.

Under the Black Infant Health Program, services begin when women are pregnant, and end two months after mothers complete a 10-week post-partum group. At this point, NHA hopes to allow eligible children and families enrollment into NHA's Early Head Start program, where they can eventually transition to the NHA Head Start program when the child is of age. This partnership expands the range of service from pregnancy until the child is four years-old, and gives children and families access to the wealth of support, social services, and early childhood development the NHA Head Start program provides.

NHA President and CEO Rudolph A. Johnson, III is excited about the agency's opportunity to operate the San Diego County Black Infant Health Program, and believes that NHA's unique position as a Head Start operator will allow more families to benefit from the continued care NHA provides.

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“We are eager to offer the services provided under the San Diego County Black Infant Health Program, and we look forward to serving these mothers and children in the Head Start program as well. There are so many opportunities available through this partnership, and we are sure we will make an even greater impact in San Diego,” Johnson said.

The goal of the Black Infant Health program is to help decrease African-American infant deaths, increase the health and well-being of African-American mothers and children, and increase community awareness of health disparities. Some of the services provided include pre and post birth group sessions, individualized client support, and referrals for health and social services.

Services are provided at no cost to clients. African-American women, age 18 and older, who are less than 27 weeks pregnant, are eligible to enroll in the program.

For more information regarding the BIH, visit www.neighborhoodhouse.org/blackinfanthealth.

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About the Neighborhood House Association: *The Neighborhood House Association is one of the largest multi-purpose social service agencies in San Diego, serving 24,000 families each year. With 13 programs ranging from early childhood development, behavioral health services, senior services, and more, the Neighborhood House Association is committed to developing confident, self-sufficient, healthy families and communities. To learn more about the Neighborhood House Association, visit www.neighborhoodhouse.org.*