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For Immediate Release
January 25, 2022

PRESS RELEASE **NAPA'S COURAGE CENTER EARNS NATIONAL REACCREDITATION**

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley announced today:

The Courage Center has been awarded reaccreditation by National Children's Alliance (NCA) following an extensive application and site review process. As the accrediting agency for Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) across the country, NCA awards various levels of accreditation and membership to centers responding to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient, and put the needs of child victims of abuse first. Accreditation is the highest level of membership with National Children's Alliance and denotes excellence in service provision.

The Courage Center opened its doors in December, 2008 and was first accredited in 2011 and reaccredited in 2016. The Courage Center provides a safe holistic environment for child victims of sexual and physical abuse where interviews and physical examination can be provided in an all encompassing, child friendly environment. As an Accredited Member of National Children's Alliance, the Courage Center is dedicated to providing comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to victims of child abuse.

NCA awards Accredited Membership based on a CAC's compliance with 10 national standards of accreditation to ensure effective, efficient and consistent delivery of services to child abuse victims. Accredited Members of NCA must utilize a functioning and effective Multidisciplinary Team approach to work collaboratively in child abuse investigation, prosecution and treatment. NCA also considers standards regarding a center's cultural competency and diversity, forensic interviews, victim support and advocacy, medical evaluation, therapeutic intervention, and child focused setting.

In a letter to the Courage Center, Theresa Huizar, Executive Director of National Children's Alliance, remarked, "We would like to acknowledge the extensive work your center and team has completed to demonstrate through both written documentation and observed practice that the [Courage Center] is in compliance with these national accreditation standards. The standards and their accompanying criteria ensure that children and families in your community receive effective, efficient, relevant and compassionate services."

Napa County District Attorney Allison Haley stated "I am extremely proud of the work being done at the Courage Center to benefit children in our community who have been the unfortunate victims of abuse. The Courage Center recognizes that children aren't simply small adults; they have unique needs,

fears and questions that require specialized care, training and response. It is no surprise to me that our collaborative efforts have gained national recognition and accreditation.”

Any questions may be directed to Assistant District Attorney Paul Gero.