



Ocean Health Initiatives, Inc.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Media Contact: John Bonevich**

**Phone: 732.363.6655**

**Email: [JBonevich@ohinj.org](mailto:JBonevich@ohinj.org) December 2023:**

**OHI Centering- Accreditation**

Ocean Health Initiatives, Inc. (OHI) is incredibly proud to announce that our Lakewood site has just been recognized as an Accredited Centering Site by Centering Healthcare Institute, having met all the standards set by the organization earlier this year. OHI first began implementing its Centering Pregnancy program in May of 2022, where the Lakewood site hosted regular group sessions for expecting mothers. During these sessions, patients were guided through their pregnancy with the aid of Centering Coordinators, keeping the soon to be mothers on track for their prenatal appointments and providing vital education and communal support thanks to the group-based model that Centering provides.

As the program became more popular and improved health outcomes for prenatal patients, OHI saw to it to bolster its Centering program by increasing enrollment and expanding available sessions. Since the beginning, OHI has strived to meet the goals of patient empowerment and education, community building, strong relationships between the healthcare team and patients, and greater satisfaction for providers and patients. In the meantime, OHI has ensured that their program maintains cultural relevance for its patients by providing the service in Spanish, giving patients an opportunity to receive Centering care who would otherwise be unable to participate.

With this accreditation, OHI aims to improve its Centering program beyond its initial success by expanding patient connections outside of the group space, allowing for more social time among the mothers and more space for peer-to-peer learning initiatives. With a reported 1,200 annual prenatal patient volume, the projected plan to launch 2 groups per month has a potential for a 20% Centering enrollment of total prenatal care volume. As the program further impacts the community, OHI hopes that its Centering program will significantly advance its mission of expanding access to care for all people, young and old, rich and poor. These mothers are carrying the future of our community, and it is our humble pleasure to guide these families to good health and wellbeing.