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**SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT: CNN mischaracterizes State's efforts
concerning St. Mary's Medical Center**

Tallahassee, FL – Late last week, CNN published a story that failed to include information provided to them about steps AHCA has taken to hold St. Mary's Medical Center accountable to the patients they serve. AHCA takes very seriously our responsibility to provide oversight to hospitals to better protect children.

Here's the statement that CNN chose not to use in its sensationalized reporting. It was provided to them on Friday, June 5.

“AHCA takes the allegations reported by CNN extremely seriously. We have conducted five site visits over the last six months and will continue to work with our partner agencies to hold this hospital accountable to the patients they serve.” – **AHCA Secretary Elizabeth Dudek**

FACTS:

- AHCA spoke with CNN multiple times on Friday regarding their story regarding St. Mary's Medical Center. CNN then reported that AHCA had not responded to a request for an interview. CNN then reported that the state was “not investigating,” and **failed to report the five site visits conducted over the last six months.**
 - In March of 2015, AHCA told CNN it had conducted five unannounced inspections at St. Mary's Medical Center within the past six months, two were related to the pediatric cardiac program. This information was reiterated multiple times over the last three months to the reporter.
- CNN reported that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) launched an investigation. **AHCA conducts investigations on behalf of CMS.** After being given this background information by AHCA, CNN left this important fact out of their story and reported that the state was “not investigating.”

Steps Taken by AHCA to Hold St. Mary's Accountable

- AHCA conducted an annual comprehensive risk management survey in Oct. 2014 and looked at issues raised in a Children's Medical Services site review concerning the facility's pediatric cardiac program. The Agency did not identify noncompliance related to the issues raised but did cite the facility for deficiencies for failing to:



- Implement system wide corrective measures to minimize the risk of adverse incidents.
 - Ensure the form used for adverse incident reporting is properly filled out by staff.
 - Ensure the 1 hour annual risk management and risk prevention education was completed for staff.
- All hospitals are required to have a risk management program that includes the investigation and analysis of the frequency and causes of patient adverse incidents, which may include death. The development of appropriate measures to minimize the risk of adverse incidents to patients is also a requirement.
 - In response to these findings, a revisit to the facility was conducted and the outstanding deficiencies found were corrected.
- The Agency has only received **one** complaint concerning St. Mary's pediatric cardiac program, which was investigated in October 2012. In this complaint investigation, as in every case we investigate, the Agency investigated every aspect of care related to the complaint. The Agency cited the facility for issues related to its risk management program and the Agency revisited the facility to confirm those problems had been corrected.
- The Agency conducts multiple unannounced inspections at St. Mary's Medical Center as part of our ongoing oversight of hospital operations. As with every complaint we receive, we will fully review any new allegations.

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