



For immediate release: **Conference Media Advisory; Expert Interviews Available**
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Visitors from England exchange ideas and learn new, progressive recovery treatments from the Mental Health Center of Denver

Experts available for interviews at annual Recovery Conference Thursday May 22nd

(Denver, Colo. – May 19, 2008) Mental health professionals and consumers from Manchester, England are in Denver as part of an exchange of ideas and to learn how to improve services and focus on recovery from the Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD).

The eleven visitors are from the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) of the Northwest Development Center in Manchester, England. The CSIP is charged by the National Health Service (NHS) - England's health provider and the 3rd largest employer in the world - to show results and improve outcomes of mental health services.

MHCD is nationally known for successful, recovery-focused mental health care and the progressive Reaching Recovery Initiative - a process which measures recovery and tracks factors associated with recovery, providing a clearer picture on what treatments help a person with mental illness recover and lead a healthier life. The group was sent to Denver to get new ideas from MHCD.

Reaching recovery and integration of healthcare for persons with mental illness is the focus of the Mental Health Center of Denver's ninth annual Recovery Conference, May 22nd at First Plymouth Church in Denver. First Lady Jeanne Ritter opens the conference at 8:45 am.

Experts available for interviews:

- John Salter, psychiatric nurse, heads the CSIP delgation from England and has expertise is how the NHS system differs from the U.S. shedding light on both the positive and negative sides of each system.
- Steve Marshall, Support Time and Recovery Worker, heads a social inclusion program for male criminal offenders with serious mental illness who are either on probation, in prison or in high security hospitals in England. With a goal of keeping these men from reoffending, he's successfully organized a football team (soccer) that's grown from four people to over 20 teams.

- Roy Starks, MA, director of the Reaching Recovery Initiative at MHCD can explain the program, what makes it so unique, and how its helping people recover today.

A panel discussion addresses the importance of integrating mental health and primary care, its barriers, the role integration plays in wellness and recovery from mental illness and what is currently being done or can be done to create a more collaborative approach to integrated healthcare in Colorado.

The group from England will participate in the panel. Other panelists include:

- Colorado State Representative Anne McGihon, Chair House Committee on Health and Human Services
- Dr. Carl Clark, Board Certified Psychiatrist and CEO of the Mental Health Center of Denver
- Fred Frese III, PhD., keynote speaker shares perspective on living with schizophrenia
- Cynthia Crews, MD, MSPH, practices at Eastside Health Center at Denver Health focusing on medical care of persons with severe mental illness.
- Suzanne Brennan, Senior Program Officer, Colorado Health Foundation
- Jay Flynn, JD, manages adult recovery services at the Mental Health Center of Denver

WHO The Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD)

WHAT Ninth Annual Recovery Conference: Bridging Health and Hope

WHERE First Plymouth Church, 3501 South Colorado Blvd., Denver

WHEN Thursday, May 22, 2008 - 8:00am until 4:00 pm

MEDIA REGISTRATION: Media check in at registration desk or contact Kaylynn Dougall at 303-504-6555 or kaylynn.dougall@mhcd.org prior to event.

This popular conference is in its 9th year. It is an interactive, one-day forum that brings together mental health providers and professionals, consumers and their families from all over the state of Colorado in an educational setting that emphasizes techniques which promote recovery and wellness. This year's conference is made by our generous sponsors Access Behavioral Care, the Gay and Lesbian Fund for Colorado and Citywide Banks.

The Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) is a charitable 501©3 corporation that serves the severely and persistently mentally ill. The mission of MHCD is enriching lives and minds by focusing on strengths and recovery. MHCD has 30 locations throughout metro-Denver where children, families and adults of all ages access high-quality mental health services in neighborhood and community-based settings including clinics, day care centers, schools and at home.

The Mental Health Center of Denver is located at 4141 E. Dickenson Place in Denver. For more information contact Kaylynn Dougall at 303-504-6555 or kaylynn.dougall@mhcd.org or visit www.mhcd.org

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