



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DENVER LEADER ASSUMES CHAIR OF BOARD OF NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

Denver –July 25, 2011 -- Carl Clark, MD, assumed leadership of the board of directors of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (National Council) as the association advances an aggressive agenda to protect and expand safety net mental health and addictions treatment services. Clark leads a board committed to recovery and a life in the community for persons with mental illnesses and addiction disorders.

Clark, a practicing psychiatrist and CEO of the Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) in Denver, has been a passionate behavioral health advocate for more than three decades. He leads MHCD in its mission of enriching lives and minds by focusing on strengths and recovery and is widely known as an expert in improving community mental health care. “It’s a privilege to have been elected chair of the National Council’s board at a time when healthcare reform and parity are about to greatly expand access to behavioral healthcare and our community is being asked to step up to the plate to help. I am humbled and energized by the opportunity to help millions of adults, children, and families with mental and addictions disorders get better and get their lives together,” said Clark.

Under Clark’s vision and leadership, MHCD, the behavioral health provider for the City and County in Denver, and the largest mental health provider in Colorado, has become nationally known as the leader in mental healthcare for developing a progressive approach to measuring and tracking recovery for persons with mental illness. “We are leading the way in what works to improve outcomes and efficiency while still helping more and more people recover and live meaningful and productive lives in our community,” says Clark. “We believe that people can and do recover from mental illness and that treatment works. Healthier people contribute to economic prosperity of communities through increased productivity at work or at home.”

Clark has been the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Exemplary Psychiatrist of the Year and the Colorado Business Council's Professional Man of the Year. He is Assistant Clinical Professor at the Department of Psychiatry at the University Of Colorado School Of Medicine and received a prestigious Livingston Fellowship from Bonfils-Stanton Foundation in 2008.

“The strength of the board cannot be overstated; each member brings to the table an understanding of community and a vision of National Council member organizations as change makers. Carl Clark leads a board determined to take us from strength to significance and I'm honored to be part of the effort,” said Linda Rosenberg, President and CEO of the National Council.

The Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) is known nationally for its successful groundbreaking approach to mental health treatment. At MHCD, those living with a mental illness are involved in shaping their own recovery and given the chance to regain control of their lives. MHCD is a private, not-for-profit, 501 (c) (3), community mental health center, providing treatment and prevention services to the residents of the City and County of Denver since its founding in 1989. MHCD believes that people can, and do, recover from mental illness and that treatment works and improves the lives of people of all ages. Through more than 35 community sites, mental health providers in 18 Denver public schools, collaborations with community partners and home-based outreach, MHCD provides a comprehensive, innovative and accessible array of mental health and substance abuse services to over 15,000 children, families and adults annually.

Press contact: Kaylynn Dougall: 303-504-6555, kaylynn.dougall@mhcd.org or www.mhcd.org

The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare is a not-for-profit, 501(c) (3) association of 1,950 behavioral healthcare organizations that provide treatment and rehabilitation for mental illnesses and addiction disorders to nearly six million adults, children and families in communities across the country. The National Council and its members bear testimony to the fact that medical, social, psychological and rehabilitation services offered in community settings help people with mental illnesses and addiction disorders recover and lead productive lives. Learn more at www.TheNationalCouncil.org.

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