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Psychologist living with schizophrenia keynote speaker at the Mental Health Center of Denver's Annual Recovery Conference May 22nd

(Denver, Colo. – May 19, 2008) Frederick Frese tells an astonishing story. Thirty years ago, he was locked up in an Ohio mental hospital, dazed and delusional, with paranoid schizophrenia. Twelve years later, he had become the chief psychologist for the very mental hospital system that had confined him.

A popular and delightfully humorous public speaker, Dr. Frese delivers the keynote address at the Mental Health Center of Denver's ninth annual Recovery Conference on Thursday, May 22, 2008. The message he carries – and he is a living example - is that persons with mental illness can lead fulfilling lives and healthcare coverage for mental illness should be fully integrated with primary healthcare.

Colorado's First Lady Jeanne Ritter opens the conference at 8:45 am.

Conference highlights include presentations such as:

- Representatives from Manchester, England discuss their approach to delivering public mental health and addictions services. Providers and consumers provide perspective from both sides of the United Kingdom's socialized medical system.
- Reaching Recovery: Charting a new course to mental wellness. MHCD's inovative program to measure and chart factors associated with recovery.
- The Youth Evaluation Project: The process of getting better for youth, their families, and clinicians in the child and family mental health services. How it might differ from adults.
- A panel of local opinion leaders, policy makers and mental health experts addresses the importance of integrated healthcare coverage, its barriers, and what is currently being done or can be done to create a more collaborative approach to integrated healthcare in Colorado.

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 - 8:00 am until 4:00 pm

PRESS 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 ninth 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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