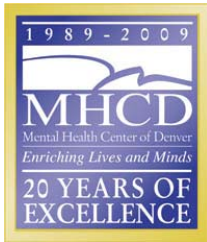


For immediate release

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Mental Health Center of Denver is Recognized for Innovation

Denver, Colorado - October 26, 2009. The Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) recently received several awards for innovative treatment, organizational efficiency and environmental leadership.

The U.S Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) prestigious 2009 Science to Service Award went to MHCD's GROW or Growth and Recovery Opportunities for Women program. This award recognizes exemplary implementation of evidence-based interventions shown to prevent and/or treat mental illnesses and substance abuse.

GROW - developed by MHCD specifically to serve Denver's homeless women with histories of trauma, mental illness and substance abuse - won for its multi-faceted use of evidence-based mental health practices and outstanding outcomes.

At intake, 100% of women in the GROW program had a mental illness, were homeless with a substance abuse problem, and had experienced significant trauma. At six month follow-up, 80% had secured permanent housing, 20% were in a stable shelter, and 60% reported abstinence from substance use. The women now have jobs, are attending school, and are parenting their children. Read more at <http://www.samhsa.gov/scienceandservice/cod2009.aspx>.

The Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council (CBHC) 2009 Golden Abacus Award for Best Practices in the Non-Clinical Arena was awarded to MHCD's Lean Process Improvement in Outpatient Healthcare Project. The project improved efficiency at intake so much that 187 additional individuals were admitted and received much needed services.

The Golden Abacus is awarded by CBHC to innovative approaches that are easily replicated at any behavioral healthcare center and result in a superior product or service.

Colorado Environmental Leadership Program Bronze Award went to MHCD for its leadership in social responsibility and its efforts to make Colorado a greener place. MHCD initiated an extensive internal environmental program that included single stream recycling, replacing inefficient fluorescent bulbs with energy efficient compact incandescent lamps, water filters replaced purchasing bottled water and employees were encouraged to use public transportation by providing RTD ECO Passes.

Celebrating 20 years of service and commitment to the Denver community, The Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) has provided extensive and accessible mental healthcare and substance abuse treatment, housing, education and employment services to the citizens of the City and County of Denver since 1989. MHCD is widely recognized as a national center of excellence in community mental healthcare and recovery-focused treatment.

MHCD is a private, 501 (c) (3) organization. A skilled staff of 500 mental health professionals provides treatment to over 11,500 individuals at 37 locations and in 17 Denver public schools. MHCD has 95 professional affiliations with national and local organizations, including programs that serve children and families, Denver's homeless and those involved with the criminal justice system.

Mental Health Center of Denver administrative offices are located at 4141 E. Dickenson Place, Denver, Colorado 80222 or 303-504-6500. For more information please contact kaylynn.dougall@mhcd.org or visit www.mhcd.org.

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