



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Mental Health Center of Denver Recovery Center Breaks Ground
Providing Economic and Environmental Benefits to Denver**

Building Renovation to Become Future Home of Adult Recovery Services

Denver – August 8, 2011 - The Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) recently broke ground on a new Recovery Center at 4455 E. 12th Ave., located at 12th Ave. between Birch and Clermont, kicking off an \$11.1 million renovation of a historic building that was formerly part of CU Health Sciences District. An official groundbreaking ceremony was held today at the future building site, which was attended by several local dignitaries including Denver Mayor Michael Hancock and City Council District #10 Representative Jeanne Robb. The project has both economic and environmental benefits for Denver, and the expansion plans for the building allows greater access to mental health services for Denver citizens.

The building renovation provides an economic boost with nearly \$18 million pumped back into the local and state economy over the life of the project as a result of spending on goods and services, labor costs, jobs, income and consumer spending.

At the groundbreaking ceremony, MHCD CEO Dr. Carl Clark, Mayor Hancock and Denver City Councilwomen Jeanne Robb and Mary Beth Susman planted a tree in recognition of the building's green and sustainable design elements as well as symbolizing MHCD's growth in the community. Gold shovels were used representing the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certification the building is seeking once the renovation is complete, making it one of the greenest mental health centers in the country and a national model for excellence.

Clark said, "Today marks a major milestone for Denver, one that gets us one step closer to achieving our vision of being able to serve all those in need of mental health services in our community. We are incredibly humbled and proud that the renovation of MHCD's future Recovery Center is underway."

In February 2011, MHCD announced the selection of Davis Partnership as the project architect. In addition, MHCD recently appointed Taylor-Kohrs as the general contractor. In late December 2010, MHCD's board of directors approved the \$3.5M purchase of the 70,000 sq. ft. building. The original building dates back to 1894 before becoming the Mt. Airy Psychiatric Hospital in 1952, then in 1989, the University of Colorado purchased the property, and it was renamed the North Pavilion. MHCD's renovation of the building is the first major project to commence the re-use and revitalization of the former CU Health Sciences District.

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The newly renovated building will become Denver's landmark Recovery Center based on MHCD's belief that people can, and do, recover from mental illness and will become the organization's flagship adult services clinic by consolidating the resources of four smaller, over-crowded clinics into one larger, modern facility. The MHCD Recovery Center will become the organization's hub for all adult mental health services. The expansion of the new building also helps MHCD achieve its larger vision of readapting existing clinic space within the organization to provide additional services needed for children and families.

The expanded integrated care approach provided at the MHCD Recovery Center will make it possible for individuals to receive fully integrated emotional and physical healthcare services under one roof for the first time in Denver, rather than having to seek those services elsewhere. Specifically, it allows MHCD to expand other essential services, such as: mental health and substance abuse treatment, psychiatry, intensive case management, primary care and a full-service pharmacy. Other supportive services will include: wellness and nutrition programs, supported housing services, and telemedicine connectivity. MHCD's Recovery Center will provide a true medical home for consumers where they can receive care for all their physical and mental health needs in one place.

MHCD estimates the new building will help to close the service-to-needs gap. MHCD anticipates that three years after completion, it will have increased the number of adult consumers served by over 40 percent, approximately 2,000 people. As the largest provider of mental health services in Denver and Colorado, MHCD treats more than 15,000 men, women and children each year at 35 locations throughout the Denver metro area. In the last five years, MHCD has doubled the number of people it serves, but not the space available in which to treat them. Even with this increase in people served, MHCD still turns away two people for every person it admits.

"Over the next few years more than 500,000 additional Coloradans will have access to health coverage, which means there will be a greater need for mental health services for as many as 125,000 new people. As the largest provider of mental healthcare services in Colorado, the majority of those people will come to MHCD seeking treatment. With the current and growing demand, MHCD needs more space to serve more people, and the Recovery Center will help us serve our community better by allowing us to treat more individuals and provide other necessary services," added Clark.

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.

The Mental Health Center of Denver (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