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THE MENTAL HEALTH CENTER OF DENVER HOSTS NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH RECOVERY

Community mental health centers gather in Denver to learn from the experts

Denver - April, 2011 – The 2011 Recovery Transformation Summit – Charting a New Course to Mental Wellness – hosted by the Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD) took place March 23-24, 2011 at the Grand Hyatt in downtown Denver.

Thirteen community mental health centers from across the country and other leaders in mental health recovery from around the nation gathered for the two-day summit. Each center left with an action plan and the elements necessary to transform their community mental health centers to one that focuses on helping people recover and live healthier lives.

"I am delighted that MHCD hosted this conference. It is so very important to have mental health organizations learn how to become recovery oriented. It is something my colleagues and I have been working on for 20 years. We hope it spreads all over the nation," comments Ruth Ralph, Ph.D., a summit panelist and Retired Senior Research Associate at Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Affairs, University of Southern Maine.

MHCD won a competitive grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to host this national conference and share its progressive work in transforming to a recovery model of care. MHCD is nationally recognized as innovative in their approach to mental health treatment believing that people can, and do, recover from mental illness. MHCD has a 70 percent recovery rate and has earned national prominence from its peers for developing outcome measurement tools to track mental health recovery. For details on MHCD's innovative approach to measuring recovery go to www.reachingrecovery.org

The Summit provided:

- A national support network of leading behavioral healthcare experts on system change;
- Roundtable discussions on implementing processes and practices;
- Ways to measure and support recovery within community mental health organizations;
- Hands-on, real-world demonstrations; and
- Social networking initiatives.

“Attendees learned from experts in the field and heard real-world examples of successful implementation, developed action plans for their center's transformation and discussed specific processes and practices,” says Roy Starks, Director of the Mental Health Center of Denver's Reaching Recovery Initiative and Rehabilitation. “We are excited to share our success and recovery vision with other mental health centers.”

Following the Summit, online support networks and quarterly webinars will provide consultation, allowing attendees to continue to network and report on their transformation progress.

For more information visit: www.reachingrecovery.org or www.mhcd.org.

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 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 it's 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.

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