



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DENVER LATINO NAMED TO THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE'S INAUGURAL ADDRESSING HEALTH DISPARITIES LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Denver – May 13, 2011 – Russ Urrutia, of the Mental Health Center of Denver (MHCD), was recently selected by The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare (NCCBH) for the inaugural 2011 class of its Addressing Health Disparities Leadership Program. The first-year program is designed to mentor culturally diverse mid-level managers into executive positions, nurturing leaders who can represent and serve our nation's diverse communities. Urrutia was one of 22 people selected from over 160 applicants from healthcare organizations across the country.

Urrutia is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and the Program Manager for El Centro de Las Familias, an outpatient clinic at MHCD delivering mental health services primarily to Spanish - and- English-speaking Latinos and their families. Urrutia was the first and only male to receive a college education in his family and went on to earn a master's degree. He did not learn Spanish growing up, and went back to Mexico for a year at the age of 20 to learn Spanish and to deeply explore his cultural roots. This profoundly affected his understanding of the immigrant experience and evoked the passion he expresses today toward enhancing the quality of, and access to, culturally and linguistically appropriate services to Spanish speakers and other disenfranchised populations within the Denver community.

Participants in the Addressing Health Disparities Leadership Program will be part of a yearlong peer-to-peer learning community and receive group and individual coaching from expert consultants. The program includes a rich array of education, mentoring, career guidance, and networking opportunities. Leadership training began on May 3rd in San Diego, Calif. The participants attended a three-day training and will be supported afterwards by webinars and other follow up training.

"Prior to accepting a management position, I served my community as a bilingual individual and family therapist for more than 20 years. I accepted a position at MHCD's EL Centro de las Familias clinic after being encouraged to move into a leadership position by several key Latino community leaders who saw my leadership potential," said Urrutia. "I'm eager to explore this leadership opportunity, which will allow me to develop my management potential to the fullest extent, and expand my vision for the future, so that I may continue to create access for Latinos in need of culturally sensitive mental health services and act as a mentor and role model for future leaders," he added.

According to Dr. Carl Clark, CEO of MHCD, "Russ's participation in this unique leadership program will further MHCD's efforts to serve cultural minorities, drive cultural competency initiatives, and focus on developing programs and a workforce that reflects Denver's diverse community. We are elated for him to receive this honor, and believe there is no one more deserving in our community to receive this unique training opportunity."

El Centro de las Familias - a multi-cultural, out-patient clinic of MHCD - is located in southwest Denver and specializes in bilingual mental health services for Spanish speaking children, adolescents, adult and families <http://www.mhcd.org/Services/ElCentroDeLasFamilias.html>

To learn more about the Mental Health Center of Denver, visit 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 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

Russ Urrutia 303-504-1918 or russ.urrutia@mhcd.org

The National Council is a not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) association of 1,800 community healthcare organizations that provide treatment and rehabilitation for mental illnesses and addictions disorders to nearly eight million adults, children and families in communities across the country. Learn more at

www.TheNationalCouncil.org<<http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/10848940:13243575619:m:1:1362578080:F77A52616D74C43AA2A3C5905E9BCFBA>>.

###