



National Council Names 2009 Awards of Excellence Honorees

Awards to be Presented at Annual Conference in San Antonio, Texas

Celebrate with us! Thirteen exemplary individuals and organizations will be presented with the National Council Awards of Excellence on April 7, 2009, during the 39th Annual Conference of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare in San Antonio, Texas. The Awards of Excellence honors those who have significantly shaped the mental health and addictions industry and improved the lives of those in need of treatment and support.

“Each year the National Council honors individuals and organizations that are the ‘best of the best.’ These are the programs and the people who are ahead of the trends: those who are pioneering new service delivery models, those who are advancing original collaborations, and those who demonstrate positive outcomes for individuals and families,” said Linda Rosenberg, MSW, President and CEO of the National Council.

Listed below, the 2009 Awards of Excellence honorees were chosen from more than 150 nominations based on their demonstrated achievements in providing critical services to those with mental illnesses and addictions disorders.

Excellence in Community Collaboration

The Center for Mental Health
 Richard DeHaven, CEO
www.cfmh.org
 Anderson, IN

Excellence in Innovation

Sponsored by Wiley, Inc.
 Southwest Counseling Solutions
 John Van Camp, CEO
www.swsol.org
 Detroit, MI

Excellence in the Use of Technology

Sponsored by Qualifacts, Inc.
 Community Counseling Centers of Chicago
 Tony Kopera, CEO
www.c4chicago.org
 Chicago, IL

Excellence in Consumer and Family Advocacy

Jason West, Peer Partner
 Pacific Clinics
www.pacificclinics.org
 Arcadia, CA

Excellence in Grassroots Advocacy (Community)

Crider Health Center
 Dr. Karl Wilson, CEO
www.cridercenter.org

Wentsville, MO

Excellence in Grassroots Advocacy (State)

Colorado Behavioral Healthcare Council
George DelGrosso, Executive Director

www.cbhc.org

Denver, CO

"Rookie of the Year" Emerging Leader

Vanessa Sweeney

Jefferson Parish Human Services Authority

www.jphsa.org

Metairie, LA

Lifetime Achievement Award (Volunteer)

Three Co-Winners

Carmela Lunt, Board President

Community Hope, Inc.

www.communityhope-nj.org

Parsippany, NJ

Genevieve Hearon, Member, Board of Trustees

Austin Travis County MHMR Center

www.atcmhmr.com

Austin, TX

Norman Farberow, PhD

Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center

www.didihirsch.org

Culver City, CA

Lifetime Achievement (Staff)

Three Co-Winners

Hugh Wirtz, CEO

Ohio Council of Behavioral Healthcare Providers

www.ohiocouncil-bhp.org

Columbus, OH

Jim McDermott, PhD, CEO

MHMR of Tarrant County

www.mhmrtc.org

Fort Worth, TX

Kathy Reynolds, CEO

Washtenaw Community Health Organization

www.ewashtenaw.org



Programs of Significance

The National Council would like to make honorable mention of twelve nominations who were difficult to turn down!

AA/NA Community and Lake Area Counseling

Doug Jackson, Peer Recovery Representative
for their work with Five County Mental Health Authority and the Partnerships for Recovery and Peer Support Program

www.fivecountymha.org

Henderson, NC

Behavioral Health Link

David W. Covington, CEO/Partner

for their call center/crisis services innovations

www.behavioralhealthlink.com

Atlanta, GA

Ben Gordon Center

with Northern Illinois University and other partners

Michael Flora, President & CEO

for their efforts with college age youth in the aftermath of a school shooting

www.bengordoncenter.org

DeKalb, IL

Burrell Behavioral Health

Journey Home Project

Craig Valone, Program Director

for their efforts with the homeless

www.coxhealth.com

Springfield, MO

Central Clinic

Court Clinic

Walter S. Smitson, President & CEO

for their efforts to coordinate and provide services in partnership with the criminal justice department

www.centralclinic.org

Cincinnati, OH

Coleman Professional Services

with Summa Health System

Nelson W. Burns, President & CEO

for their efforts to reduce inpatient hospital admissions and increased services in the community

www.coleman-professional.com

Akron, OH

Community Partnerships of Southern Arizona

with NAMI of Southern Arizona

Neal Cash, President & CEO

for their innovative educational online outreach for consumers and families

www.cpsa-rbha.org

Tucson, AZ

El Paso MHMR

Gary Larcenaire, CEO

for their work with the El Paso Greater Chamber of Commerce Healthcare Council, Governmental Affairs Division and Leadership of El Paso Division

www.epmhm.org

El Paso, TX

Fellowship Health Resources

with the Rhode Island College School of Social Work

Joe Dziobek, President & CEO

for their efforts in workforce development

www.fellowshiphr.org

Providence, RI

Hill Health Corporation

Village of Power

Susan Feldman, Clinical Director

for their efforts to provide whole health services to high-risk women dealing with homelessness, addiction and mental illness

www.hillhealthcenter.com

New Haven, CT

Northern Arizona Regional Behavioral Health Authority

Susan Morley, Deputy Director

for their very GREEN, environmentally conscious, innovative telemedicine program

www.narbha.org

Flagstaff, AZ

Southcentral Foundation

with the Kenaitze Indian Tribe

Katherine Gottlieb, President & CEO

for their efforts serving the Alaska Native and American Indian population

www.southcentralfoundation.com

Kenai, AK