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NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:

Detroit-Wayne Community Mental Health Agency awarded \$200,000 state grant for Michigan Recovery Center of Excellence

D-WCCMH Agency collaborates with The Guidance Center to launch statewide initiative

Southgate, MI – The Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency announced Monday that it has been awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Michigan Department of Community Health to establish a statewide Recovery Center of Excellence.

As part of the grant, the Agency will establish and operate the Michigan Recovery Center of Excellence through its collaboration with The Guidance Center, located in Southgate.

"Consumers are the heart and core of our mission and the CMH system in Michigan," said Acting Executive Director Veda Sharp. "The Michigan Recovery Center of Excellence is the latest progression in consumer-driven programs that advance the delivery of mental health services for treatment, recovery, and self-determination. It is gratifying that the Detroit-Wayne County CMH Agency was selected from among the worthy proposals reviewed by the MDCH and the Recovery Council of Michigan. We're excited by what the Michigan Recovery Center of Excellence will mean for consumers and mental health care throughout the state."

The Agency and The Guidance Center teamed on the proposal, using as a model their successful collaboration on the Virtual Center of Excellence, an innovative training program. The MDCH cited the collaboration, noting "review committee members were impressed with the proposal's strong in-kind donations and capacity to begin virtual activities with very little planning time needed."

"The Detroit-Wayne County system believes in collaboration between consumers, providers, and stakeholders," said Michael Lott, Chief Executive Officer of The Guidance Center. "The impact of this initiative will enhance and expand the capacity of a recovery-based system of care for and by people with mental illness, while creating accessible pathways to recovery."

Key components of the new Recovery Center of Excellence project will include the utilization of peer support specialists in all phases of operations, an on-line portal, town hall meetings across the state, annual Recovery Conferences, recovery stories, newsletters, best practice dissemination, progress reporting, sustainability planning, marketing, and outreach.

Sharp added: "As the Michigan Recovery Center of Excellence shows, Michigan is doing

a lot of great work in mental health care, and our Agency and system are proud to be a part of the progress."

A division of the Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services, the Detroit-Wayne County CMH Agency serves more than 56,500 consumers with mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, developmental disabilities, and substance use disorders. In recent years, the Detroit-Wayne County system has gained state and national recognition for its innovative services and programs, including programs related to children's mental health. Recently, the Agency launched new initiatives in systems transformation for supported housing, supportive employment and co-occurring disorders.

The Guidance Center is a service provider for the Agency and is a recognized leader in transforming mental health and human services to meet the changing needs of the community. In 2008, The Guidance Center will celebrate its 50th anniversary. –end-