



Office of Communications and Community Collaboration
640 Temple 8th Floor / Detroit, Michigan 48201 / (313) 833-3984

NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:
Teresa Blossom, C&CC Director
(313) 833-2983 office/ 213-0838 cell

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Agency increases awareness of mental health in at-risk community

Wayne County, Michigan –The Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency is increasing awareness of mental health within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community with its debut in the new *Pride Source* directory.

Information about the Agency appears for the first time in the newly released 2009-10 edition of *Pride Source*, which is being distributed now to thousands of readers across Wayne County. It will also be distributed at the Motor City Pride and other upcoming local events.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, issues surrounding personal, family and social acceptance of sexual orientation can affect mental health and personal safety. The listing in *Pride Source* is part of the Agency's ongoing outreach to at -risk persons, according to Veda Sharp, LMSW, Acting Executive Director.

"*Pride Source* is a popular and respected community resource," she said. "Having a presence in the directory will help connect residents who are at risk for depression, suicide, and substance abuse to our 24-Hour Help Line and other services."

The toll-free 24-Hour Help Line, 1-800-241-4949 (TTY 1-866-870-2599), offers crisis intervention, suicide prevention and mental health referrals.

Pride Source is published by the *Pride Source* Media Group, the state's largest publishing company that specifically targets the emerging LGBT community through the directory and the *Between The Lines* newspaper.

The Detroit-Wayne County Community Mental Health Agency serves more than 60,600 residents with mental illness, serious emotional disturbance, developmental disabilities and substance abuse disorders. The Agency is a division of the Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services. – end –