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General questions: Ken Palke, 503-947-5286

Technical questions: Jami Rockwell, 503-945-9708

Mental health advocates to receive DHS awards Oct. 17

Ten organizations and people who advocate for the mental health needs of Oregonians will be honored Oct. 17 in Salem during the 2008 Mental Health Awards for Excellence ceremony.

The awards are sponsored by the Oregon Department of Human Services Addictions and Mental Health Division and presented to students, volunteers, educators, professionals, family members and others. Individuals are nominated for the award by their peers. This year's recipients are from Bend, Fossil, Gold Beach, Heppner, Klamath Falls, Oregon City, Pendleton, Salem and The Dalles.

The ceremony begins at 10 a.m. in Room 260 of the Labor and Industries Building, 350 Winter St. NE. The theme is Building Community – Taking Action, signifying that recovery from mental illness requires community action, understanding and teamwork.

"This is a great opportunity to acknowledge the caring and dedication of our state, local and community partners, providers, families, and the many clients we serve," says Richard Harris, DHS interim assistant director for addictions and mental health. "Many Oregonians are on the road to recovery from mental illness, in part because of the supports they receive from the people and organizations in their communities."

Here are this year's award recipients:

- **Kris Anderson, youth advocate**, Salem – As regional coordinator for the Oregon Family Support Network (OFSN), Ms. Anderson advocates for youth with severe emotional disorders and their families. On the Governor's

Wraparound Initiative Project Management Team, she delivers collaborative problem solving (CPS) presentations around the state. CPS is a peer-to-peer weekly group for parents and caregivers of children with challenging behaviors. She also has volunteered for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI).

- **Terry Bell, Curry County Human Services**, Gold Beach – As Curry County Human Services clinical director, Ms. Bell supervises alcohol and drug, mental health, gambling, anger management and domestic violence programs. She is a pre-commitment investigator and has worked in prevention, domestic violence intervention, crisis resolution, and clinical caseloads for the county. She also has been a trainer for the JOBS program with DHS, Oasis Shelter and volunteers, and she teaches human services subjects at Southwest Oregon Community College.
- **Kevin Campbell, Greater Oregon Behavioral Health**, Inc. and EOHSC, The Dalles – Mr. Campbell is the leader of two organizations: the Eastern Oregon Human Services Consortium (EOHSC) and Greater Oregon Behavioral Health, Inc. (GOBHI). At GOBHI he helped create community recovery-based residential placements, respite care, and sub-acute care beds, while emphasizing peer-supported services. GOBHI developed therapeutic foster homes as local alternatives to placing children in residential mental health treatment facilities. EOHSC and its providers established treatment homes that offer a high-quality alternative to state hospitalization for more than 100 persons at any given time.
- **John Elliott, Klamath County commissioner**, Klamath Falls – As liaison for the Klamath County Mental Health Department, Mr. Elliott supports mental health consumers and county staff and participates in annual awards presentations. He is board chair of the regional mental health organization, Jefferson Behavioral Health, working to ensure that Oregon Health Plan members receive the best possible care. He also has been involved in upgrading the Phoenix Place residential treatment facility and clinic.
- **Ty Kennison, Blue Mountain Recovery Center**, Pendleton – Mr. Kennison is a direct care mental health technician at BMRC. His interactions with residents are empowering, direct, personal and friendly – especially at times when patients might be afraid or angry. He relates past incidents to new employees, pointing out the lessons in them to engender empathy for persons with chronic mental illness. After nearly three decades at BMRC, he says: “This place has made me a better person.”

- **Kimberly Lindsay, director, Community Counseling Solutions**, Heppner – As director of Community Counseling Solutions, (formerly Morrow Wheeler Behavioral Health), Ms. Lindsay worked to open new residential mental health treatment facilities. She has helped establish peer support services and Oregon’s first peer-run telephone call-in service and developed crisis respite beds and therapeutic foster care beds in counties with very few resources. She chairs the board of Greater Oregon Behavioral Health Inc.
- **Pat Tabor, Deschutes County Parole and Probation**, Bend – As a parole and probation officer she works exclusively with people with substance abuse problems and mental illness. She is an advocate for people with mental illness and works with the county’s Bridge Program to get people into treatment and keep them out of jail. She is a member of the Deschutes County Mental Health Advisory Board, which reviews local programs, sets priorities, plans for the local mental health system, and advocates for those with mental illness and substance abuse problems.
- **Sommer Wolcott, Mosaic House**, Oregon City – As manager of ChristieCare’s Mosaic House in Oregon City, she has helped develop the facility into Oregon’s first group home for transitional-aged youth (16-24). She has built partnerships at the county and state level and with youth, parents and families. She is committed to providing a safe, nurturing environment so that young adults can achieve and maintain independent living skills. Her quiet excellence has made this program a success.
- **Deschutes County Seniors Mental Health Program**, Bend – The seven-member Deschutes County Seniors Mental Health Team serves elderly residents with support from interns and volunteers. The service is a vital resource for seniors, their families, caregivers, and providers who support them. Team members primarily do outreach work, often traveling to rural areas where their clients live. They’ve trained senior groups in suicide awareness and prevention and they operate a senior peer mentoring program.
- **Community Counseling Solutions Peer Warm Line**, Fossil – Oregon’s first statewide telephone “warm line” for persons with mental health issues has operated for 10 months with trained peers Howard Dyer and Robert Hubbel answering phones on Fridays only. The service has expanded to five hours a day and is named the David Romprey Oregon Warm Line, for the late Salem mental health advocate. Startup funding was provided by a DHS Addictions

and Mental Health Division grant; now other counties are funding the program with additional warm line workers answering the phones.

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