

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
PHILADELPHIA, PA/January 24, 2007

Community Behavioral Health (CBH), part of Philadelphia's Department of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services, will celebrate 10 years of service to the Philadelphia community on February 1, 2007.

CBH was conceived in the late 1980's and 1990's as part of Pennsylvania's HealthChoices Program, the state initiative to move the Commonwealth's Medical Assistance (MA) recipients into managed care programs. Estelle Richman, Philadelphia's Commissioner of Health in the mayoral administration of Edward G. Rendell, advocated for the creation of a non-profit managed care entity to oversee the delivery of behavioral healthcare for MA recipients, with the tireless support of mental health advocacy groups, mental health consumers, and behavioral health providers. The City agreed to assume the risk for such an entity, and CBH was awarded the contract to administer the program effective February 1, 1997, with the support of then Council President John F. Street.

Today, over 400,000 city residents qualify for services through CBH, and over 75,000 are helped through agencies under contract to CBH. Over the last decade, over 64 million dollars have been reinvested using surplus funds from CBH programs to benefit all of the residents of Philadelphia.

CBH received the highest honor in the 1999 Innovations in American Government Award, besting more than 1,600 programs nominated for recognition. Citing the success of CBH as "a national model for collaborative efforts everywhere."

For further information about CBH, please contact Nancy Lucas at (215) 413-7656.