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Advocates to provide Boston-based services for Chinese, Vietnamese communities

FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, July 6, 2007 ... William J. Taylor, president and CEO of Advocates, Inc., a leading Massachusetts human services provider based in Framingham, announced today that Advocates has been selected to partner with Project Able to provide programs and services for people with developmental disabilities and their families in Chinese and Vietnamese communities. The program is funded by the Department of Mental Retardation (DMR).

Project Able, located in Boston's Chinatown district, is a DMR initiative under which a volunteer community governing board, comprised of people with developmental disabilities, their families and members of the local community, manages services and allocates resources offered to individuals within their own ethnic neighborhoods. The program has a staff of three bi-lingual and culturally competent case managers.

According to Jeff Keilson, Advocates' vice president of strategic operations, "State-funded programs like this one represent an approach toward a more 'self-directed' program model, where authority rests with individuals with disabilities and their families, rather than with the state or individual service providers. Advocates will be supporting the Project Able governing board in their decision-making, and in any other way we can."

The Project Able governing board selected Advocates for the delivery of programs and services to more than 75 Chinese and Vietnamese families and individuals located in the Greater Boston and South Coastal areas.

The Advocates/Project Able partnership became effective on July 1. It is Advocates' first Boston-based program.

For over 32 years, Advocates, Inc. has provided supports for individuals with disabilities, through a range of rehabilitative, behavioral health, and advocacy services. The organization has formed innovative and strategic partnerships with police departments, other area human service agencies, schools and the court system. Advocates employs 855 people and has a presence in over 50 Massachusetts cities and towns.

Additional information about Advocates can be found at www.advocatesinc.org.

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