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Picture (from left): Chris Gordon, M.D.,
Elizabeth Childs, M.D., and Sandy Fallon.

Dr. Christopher Gordon, Advocates' VP/Medical Director, is DMH Distinguished Service Award Recipient

FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, June 1, 2007 ... William J. Taylor, president and CEO of Advocates, Inc., announced last week that Christopher D. Gordon, M.D. has been selected as a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award bestowed by Commissioner Elizabeth Childs, M.D. of the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (DMH). He received the Award at a ceremony at the State House on May 22.

The Commissioner's Distinguished Service Awards are presented to individuals, groups and organizations that have contributed in significant ways toward improving the lives of adults, youth and children with mental illnesses or serious emotional disturbances.

Gordon is vice president and medical director of clinical services for Advocates, Inc., a leading Massachusetts human services provider headquartered in Framingham.

He will be honored by the Commissioner for his "strength-based approach to mental health treatment, seeing patients as more than their illness," according to the DMH. The Department also cited the honoree for his treatment of patients with mental illness "as individuals with talents, creativity and aspirations ... the single most important thing we can do to help people recover and live full and rich lives."

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Gordon, a resident of Natick, joined Advocates in 1995 as medical director. He earned his undergraduate degree at Antioch College, and his M.D. and doctorate in psychiatry from the University of Maryland School of Medicine. He is a member of the American Psychiatric Association, the American Medical Association, the Massachusetts Medical Society and the Massachusetts Psychiatric Society. The American Psychiatric Association honored him in 2003 as a Distinguished Fellow.

He is actively involved in teaching in the Residency Training Program of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and in the Combined Residency Program at Massachusetts General and McLean Hospitals. He is a frequent lecturer and presenter, and has authored numerous articles appearing in psychiatric and medical journals, texts and publications.

Gordon has practiced in a variety of settings, including clinical outpatient and private practice, and has been a medical director of psychiatric hospitals and a clinical leader and care provider in a full-service mental health center offering crisis and emergency and outpatient and residential services. He currently serves as staff psychiatrist for the MetroWest Health System.

Advocates employee Sandra Fallon, a licensed clinical social worker at the Worcester County House of Correction, also received an award from the DMH. They awarded her a human rights award for her work in jail diversion.

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 area human service agencies, police departments, schools and the court system. Advocates employs 800 people and has a presence in over 40 Massachusetts cities and towns.

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