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Advocates' Bill Taylor receives 'Lifetime Achievement' Award from mental health community

FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, October 15, 2008 ... William J. Taylor, president and CEO of Advocates, Inc., a Framingham-based human services agency, will be the recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Massachusetts (NAMI Mass) at that group's 26th annual convention on October 18, 2008. The event will take place at the Sheraton Ferncroft in Danvers, Massachusetts.

NAMI Mass is a grassroots organization that provides support, education, and advocacy for consumers and their families; research and services; and the education of professionals, providers, and the general public. With 23 affiliates around the state, NAMI Mass represents individuals, families and professional partners in the mental health community.

The organization will honor Taylor for his "eminent service to the mental health community," and for his many mental healthcare contributions, including building awareness of mental illness, and his work to eliminate the stigma surrounding brain disorders.

Taylor joined Advocates, Inc. as clinical director in 1981, and was named president and CEO that same year. During his career, he has held leadership positions in the Massachusetts Council of Human Service Providers, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Corporations of Massachusetts, and the Association of Developmental Disabilities Providers, and is a member of the National Council of Community Mental Health Centers.

In May of 2007, he was the recipient of the Irvin Rutman Award bestowed by the United States Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association (USPRA), for his contributions to the development of a mental health system that is increasingly recovery and rehabilitation oriented. He has also received awards for exemplary leadership from Mental Health and

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Advocates, Inc. is a Not-for-Profit 501(c)(3) Organization.

Substance Abuse Corporations of Massachusetts, Inc., and the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health. The Massachusetts Providers Council recognized his statewide leadership in the long fight for a fair and just wage with its “Thumbs Up” award.

Taylor was present with Governor Deval Patrick in August of this year for the signing of S2764, a landmark bill that will change the rate-making structure of human services. For the first time in over 20 years, state contracts to provide services to people with disabilities will be periodically adjusted to reflect real costs. Taylor was invited to speak at the ceremony, where Gov. Patrick signed the bill with an Advocates pen, in recognition of Taylor’s tireless work to make the bill a reality.

About Advocates

Advocates, Inc. is among the 20 largest human service organizations in Massachusetts. With a staff of nearly 850, Advocates is a leading provider of outpatient mental health and substance abuse services; intensive home-based intervention for children and families; community education; job training and support; housing and benefits; advocacy services and community justice programs.

Advocates provides residential, vocational, respite and psychiatric emergency services at sites throughout Eastern Massachusetts.

More information about Advocates is available at www.AdvocatesInc.org.

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