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## Advocates' William Taylor Receives Leadership Award

*Honored by statewide association of behavioral health providers*

FRAMINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS, October 15, 2008 ... William J. Taylor, president and CEO of Advocates, Inc., a Framingham-based human services agency, has been awarded the *Robert A. Dorwart, M.D. Award* by Mental Health & Substance Abuse Corporations of Massachusetts, Inc. (MHSACM), a statewide association representing ninety community-based behavioral health provider organizations.

"The Provider Celebration allows us to honor individuals like Bill Taylor who work without fanfare to stand up every day to make life better for individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders and their families," said Vic DiGravio, MHSACM President & CEO. "Bill is tireless in his efforts to ensure that vulnerable individuals receive the care necessary to live independently in our communities and are never again relegated to society's shadows."

The *Robert A. Dorwart, M.D. Award* is given annually to an individual in the field of mental health who has demonstrated significant leadership in community mental health. Dr. Dorwart possessed a strong commitment to services for the seriously mentally ill and devoted his life to working in and studying the community mental health system.

Bill Taylor is President and CEO of Advocates, Inc., a private, non-profit human service organization that provides rehabilitative, behavioral health, community justice and advocacy services including innovative partnerships with area human service agencies, police departments, schools, and the court system. Services under Bill's leadership are based on his steadfast commitment to the principle that all people have the right to meaningful roles in communities of their choice, and that communities must create opportunities for contribution and participation by everyone.

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

Bill's leadership at the local and statewide level has contributed to the development of a comprehensive community system that is increasingly recovery and rehabilitation oriented. He maintains collaborative relationships with legislators, community leaders, consumers, families, and neighbors, in ways that have advanced opportunities for people in recovery from mental illness and addiction, furthered the development of progressive practice, and promoted civil rights. He is an ethical, principled leader whose actions are characterized by transparency and deep values. In the words of a colleague, "Bill has been a beacon of hope for those pushed to the margins of our society, seeking the pathways to choice, independence and fulfilling their full potential". Bill is recognized as a staunch advocate for adequate staff wages. This has resulted in enhanced public awareness of the value of direct service workers in providing mental health and substance abuse services, and most recently, in the passage of Senate Bill 65, *An Act Relative to Rates for Human and Social Service Programs*. No one in Massachusetts has done more to advance this cause.

MHSACM honored the awardees at a ceremony in Waltham. MHSACM members are the primary providers of mental health and substance abuse services in Massachusetts. Member providers and their 20,000 dedicated employees provide clinically effective and cost-sensitive care to 117,000 individuals on any given day in communities throughout the state.

### ***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 individuals 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](http://www.AdvocatesInc.org).

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