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***ADAMHS BOARD AWARDS HONOR EXCEPTIONAL WORK
IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM***

CUYAHOGA COUNTY, OHIO – The Alcohol, Drug Addiction and Mental Health Services (ADAMHS) Board of Cuyahoga County presented its awards during its first Annual Meeting Brunch on Tuesday, May 18, 2010.

“The compassionate work of the individuals and programs we honor is truly inspiring. Their extraordinary contributions are helping people with mental illness and or addiction on their path to recovery. The actions of each of our award recipients are helping to alleviate the stigma that is still too often associated with mental illness and addiction. Their achievements embody what community behavioral health is all about,” remarked William M. Denihan, Chief Executive Officer.

The award recipients are:

- ***Mental Health Professional of the Year*** – **Lori D'Angelo, Ph.D., Executive Director of Magnolia Clubhouse**, for being a local, national and international leader in the Clubhouse Model; creating opportunities for full and meaningful lives for people living with mental illness; exhibiting passion in her work; displaying strong leadership and advocacy skills, and working tirelessly to ensure that Magnolia Clubhouse provides an environment where each individual not only sets clear personal goals, but is also provided with the support to make the goals a reality.
- ***Addiction Treatment Professional of the Year*** – **Terry Luria, Clinical Director of Y-Haven Transitional Housing**, for serving as a clinical director while continuing direct services and facilitating group therapy, running family groups and individual counseling sessions; helping to prepare future professionals of the behavioral health field by educating students and interns, and not tolerating the stigmatization of people living with behavioral health issues.
- ***Legislator of the Year*** – **State Senator Shirley A. Smith (D- District 21)**, for taking a very active role in ensuring that consumers have a safe comfortable place to call home and a choice in where they live; organizing and participating in meetings between the ADAMHS Board and Adult Care Home operators to discuss the requirements for becoming a group home and meeting the standards and expectations of the Board.

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- **Consumer Involvement** – **Don Mackay; Jody Bell; Shonna Ellington, and Miracle Serrano**, for, openly discussing their behavioral health struggles and accomplishments with others; providing encouragement and support, and helping to alleviate the stigma of living with behavioral health issues.
- **Faith-based Involvement** – **Lutheran Metropolitan Ministry Men’s Shelter**, for not only providing temporary shelter for homeless men, but collaborating with community agencies to provide services to help over 400 men manage symptoms of substance abuse and mental illness while finding stable housing, and serving as a major advocate for the homeless and a teaching environment for medical and social work professionals.
- **Community Involvement Award** – **Judge Timothy E. McMonagle, Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas** for truly being an advocate for people living with mental illness; constantly working to highlight the importance of understanding mental illness in the criminal justice system, and working with prosecutors, sheriffs, probation offices, legislators, treatment specialists, attorneys, municipalities, police departments and the Ohio Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to educate about ways to better respond and treat people who have a mental illness.
- **Contract Agency Program** – **Jewish Family Services Association Family Advocacy Program**, for assisting consumers and their families navigate the mental health system by helping to obtain government benefits, food stamps, linkages and referrals to education; obtaining medicine while waiting to receive Medicaid eligibility; finding appropriate housing; assisting with lifetime planning, and helping to transition minors to adult services or older consumers into nursing homes.
- **CEO’s Award** – **Cassandra Richardson, ADAMHS Board Chief Financial Officer**, for serving as project manager for the Board’s successful move to its new offices while performing her regular job duties.

The ADAMHS Board Awards recognize outstanding individuals and organizations for their extraordinary achievements during calendar year 2009, and recipients are living examples that illustrate the Board’s slogan: *Improving lives through wellness, recovery and independence.*

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