



**National Counseling Group, Inc.**  
*Since 1993*

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
October 5, 2009

**CONTACT:**  
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**National Counseling Group Hosts 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual National Conference in Virginia,  
To Raise Awareness Of Virginia's Mental Health Care Challenges and  
Showcase the Impact of Public-Private Partnerships In Bringing Care To Those  
Most In Need**

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**Featuring Political and Civic Leaders Shaping Virginia's Mental Health Policy and Budget**

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**Community Service Awards to recognize leaders in the Newport News, Winchester and  
Richmond areas who contribute to their communities in exceptional ways**

**WHAT:** National Counseling Group, Inc., Third Annual Conference

**WHEN:** Wednesday, October 7, 2009, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. (*detailed agenda available;  
Community Service Awards to be presented 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.*)

**WHERE:** Greater Richmond Convention Center, 403 North Third Street, Richmond, Va.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Welcome by the **Honorable Dwight C. Jones, Reverend and Mayor of Richmond City**. Mayor Jones, an active public servant in the City of Richmond for over 35 years, was first elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1993, currently serves as the Chair of the Virginia Legislative Black Caucus and was recently appointed to serve on the Virginia Commission on Immigration. Mayor Jones will share his vision for Richmond, how the budget crisis has affected access to mental health care for city residents and the importance of public-private partnerships.
- Remarks/presentations by:
  - **The Honorable David W. Marsden** (*Virginia House of Delegates*), serves on the House Committee on Courts of Justice and the House Committee on Transportation. Delegate Marsden will speak on the need for treatment programs serving juveniles and will provide legislative updates on the process for determining the budget on mental health.
  - **The Honorable Stephen C. Shannon** (*Virginia House of Delegates*), serves on the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on Education and is the Democratic Candidate for Attorney General. Delegate Shannon will provide an update on the Mental Health Care budget and speak about the importance of adequate mental health services designed to reduce domestic violence, gang related violence and substance abuse.

- **The Honorable Lionell Spruill, Sr.** (*Virginia House of Delegates*), serves as Minority Caucus Vice Chair for Outreach, on the House Committee on Counties, Cities and Towns, the House Committee on Health, Welfare and Institutions and the House Committee on Rules. Delegate Spruill will speak on the growing population of Medicaid recipients and their continued need for access to mental health care services.
- **Reverend and Candidate for Delegate, Luke E. Torian**, will speak about his significant efforts in counseling troubled teens, how to help youth through community service and supporting those children most at-risk through programs such as therapeutic foster care.
- **The Honorable James W. Dyke, Jr.** (*McGuire Woods, Former Virginia Secretary of Education*), will speak about the importance of partnerships between students, parents, teachers and mentors/counselors; the importance of adequate funding of Virginia's institutions of higher education and the importance of all youth to the future of Virginia.
- Special Message by **The Honorable Timothy M. Kaine, Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia**
- Presentation of **Community Service Awards** recognizing:
  - **Sylvia Copeland-Murphy, Community Resources Officer For Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority**– Mrs. Copeland-Murphy, who is also the Assistant Pastor with Oak Grove Baptist Church in Suffolk, Virginia, works with over 5,000 residents from infancy to seniors in Public Housing. Mrs. Copeland-Murphy has the remarkable challenge of coordinating programs, resources and referrals to meet the varying needs of all residents. She does this through collaboration with an extensive network of agencies. Mrs. Copeland-Murphy writes grants to bring job training to the housing authority's job training center, and she and her team of 11 staff monitor those grants, manage the Homeowners Program, coordinate a program designed to increase access to resources for seniors, work to ensure all residents are literate, and administer a scholarship program designed to bring residents opportunities some never dreamed they would have access to.
  - **Karen Schultz, Director of the Institute for Government and Public Service and Associate Professor with the Bernard J. Dunn School of Pharmacy at Shenandoah University in Winchester, Virginia** – Dr. Schultz has been a faculty member with Shenandoah University since 1981. During her tenure, Dr. Schultz has been honored with a variety of teaching and service awards. Recent awards include the university-wide exemplary teaching award in 2009 and the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Service Award in 2005. Dr. Schultz has also been honored as the pharmacy school's teacher of the year and as with the university wide award of teacher of the year. For the last 10 semesters, Karen Schultz has taught a service learning course at Shenandoah University that prepares students to learn how to communicate with different populations. Dr. Schultz was recently appointed by the governor to serve on the Virginia Board of Nursing and is a member of the Virginia Commission on Energy and Environment.

(MORE)

- **Jane Lanham – FAPT Specialist with Chesterfield/Colonial Heights CSA-** In support of the Governor’s initiatives to reduce the number of kids in congregate care, Mrs. Lanham is the Leader of a FAPT team with the Chesterfield/Colonial Heights CSA that has been designed to address the more clinically and environmentally complex cases involving youth needing a variety of mental health and supportive services. In their effort to target youth coming out of residential placements, the “Blue FAPT Team” builds community plans, in collaboration with a variety of other providers, designed to help youth re-enter their communities and successfully adapt back into their home and family. Jane Lanham is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has a Masters Degree in Public Administration.
- Special performance by the “**Post-D Melody Makers,**” which is made up of youth from the Newport News Juvenile Services Post-Dispositional Program, a six-month residential program that provides an alternative to long-term Department of Corrections placement.

**TO ATTEND:**

Attendance is free for members of the media with advance registration; Contact Debbie Sikes at [Debbie.sikes@nationalcounselinggroup.com](mailto:Debbie.sikes@nationalcounselinggroup.com) or 703-932-5896 to register.

**BACKGROUND:**

*The National Counseling Group, Inc. (NCG) is a private organization that was established in 1993 by Thomas W. Minnick in order to provide an outpatient program designed to more effectively address the needs of individuals suffering from the combination of mental health and substance abuse disorders by treating dual diagnosis under one roof. Comprised of highly skilled, professional and caring counselors, NCG has provided premium therapeutic services to individuals and families throughout Virginia for over 16 years and has received many accolades for the variety of community-based, school-based and outpatient services available to address mental health needs throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. NCG currently has 20 offices with locations in Winchester, Exmore, Herndon, Petersburg, Manassas, Marshall, Martinsville, Newport News, Richmond, Virginia Beach, Roanoke, Annandale, Fredericksburg, Culpeper, Front Royal, Harrisonburg, Staunton and Warrenton.*

*NCG specializes in treating behavioral problems, substance abuse issues, mental health disorders, and family discord through a multi-systemic approach and evidence-based practice. NCG has contracts with over 100 public agencies, including various Departments of Social Services, Court Services Units, Community Service Boards and public schools, serving clients in more than 50 counties across the Commonwealth.*

*In addition, NCG continues to play a major role to increase the accessibility of care to children, adults and families through public-private partnerships, provision of community-based programming, school-based programming, Therapeutic Foster Care, offering Medicaid-funded services and through charitable giving. In fact, in 2008 alone, NCG provided more than 300,000 units of care to over 6,000 individuals and families and donated more than \$160,000 to charitable causes including contributions for clothing and Christmas gifts for foster care children, church donations, college scholarships, Wolf Trap Foundation and the SAFE Initiative. Additionally, NCG dedicated more than \$650,000 to Public/Professional Service Trainings, public advocacy and clinical quality control.*

*NCG has been recognized for its innovative and excellent professional services by President Ronald Reagan, Governor Tim Kaine, The Washington Post, the Clinton Administration, and twice by the Virginia General Assembly. In July of 2008, Mr. Minnick was featured on the cover of the NFIB My Business Magazine. For more information about NCG, visit [www.nationalcounselinggroup.com](http://www.nationalcounselinggroup.com).*

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