



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**CSA Specialist Jane Lanham  
To be Honored with *Community Service Award* at  
National Counseling Group's National Conference in Richmond**

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***CSA Specialist with Chesterfield/Colonial Heights CSA;  
Featured at Event Held to Bring Awareness to Virginia's Mental Health Care Challenges  
During Tough Economic Times and Showcase Benefits of Public-Private Partnerships***

Richmond, Va. – Jane Lanham, (Comprehensive Services Act) CSA Specialist with Chesterfield/Colonial Heights CSA, will be honored with a *Community Service Award* at the National Counseling Group's Third Annual Conference, which will take place on Wednesday, October 7, from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Greater Richmond Convention Center (403 North Third Street, Richmond, Va.). Mrs. Lanham, who is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has a Masters Degree in Public Administration, is being recognized for supporting children in exceptional ways through her dedication and commitment to community-based care and keeping children and families together.

In support of the Governor's initiatives to reduce the number of kids in congregate care, the Chesterfield/Colonial Heights CSA has developed a Family, Assessment and Planning Team (FAPT) designed to address the more clinically and environmentally complex cases involving youth needing a variety of mental health and supportive services. Mrs. Lanham is the leader of this special team, the "Blue Team", whose goal is to build community plans, in collaboration with a variety of other providers, designed to help youth discharging from residential placements re-enter their communities and successfully adapt back into their home and family.

"Building a community-based plan requires intensive oversight and assistance", states Mrs. Lanham as she discusses the concentrated detail and collaboration required amongst all involved family members and professionals to help ensure a child's placement back home is a successful one. "I believe children should grow up in homes and it breaks my heart when they don't", says Jane Lanham. "What inspires me is when people continue to give. When a plan doesn't work, we have to try something else. The openness of this discussion among professionals from different disciplines is what makes this process work. I appreciate private organizations like NCG, who, in response to a need, can work with us to create a service to meet that need."

"Jane leads the battle to offer these youth stability, compassion and an opportunity for change", says NCG Administrative Director of Therapeutic Foster Care, Melinda Baker-Morris. "She is a strong advocate of community-based programming. She is creative and dynamic and refuses to let any barriers prevent us from developing services for these youth. She looks at each child as an individual and is committed to customizing a plan for each that will contribute to their success. "

The NCG National Conference where Mrs. Lanham will be honored in Richmond will also feature remarks from Richmond City Mayor, Dwight C. Jones, Delegates Dave Marsden, Steve Shannon and Lionell Spruill, former Secretary of Education Jim Dyke, and Reverend Luke Torian. In addition to presenting a Community Service Award to Jane Lanham, NCG will also honor Sylvia Copeland-Murphy, Community Resources Office for Newport News Redevelopment and Housing Authority and Karen Kennedy Schultz, Director of the Institute for Government and Public Service with Shenandoah University.

The overall focus of the conference will be on raising awareness about Virginia's mental health policy challenges during tough economic times and showcasing the benefits of public-private partnerships in bringing care to those most in need.

Attendance at the conference is free for members of the media with advance registration; Contact Debbie Sikes 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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