



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

April 29, 2008

**CONTACT:**

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**National Counseling Group Hosts 2<sup>nd</sup> National Conference in Virginia,  
To Celebrate NCG's 15-year Anniversary and  
Showcase the Impact of Public-Private Partnerships in the Mental Health Arena**

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**Featuring Governor Tim Kaine, General Assembly Leaders on Mental Health Policy and  
Nationally Recognized Mental Health Experts**

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**Community Service Awards to recognize leaders in the Northern Virginia and Martinsville  
areas who contribute to their communities in exceptional ways**

**WHAT:** National Counseling Group, Inc., Second National Conference

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 1, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 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 Timothy M. Kaine, Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia**
- Remarks/presentations by:
  - **The Honorable Phil Hamilton** (*Virginia House of Delegates*), Chairman of the Health, Welfare and Institutions Committee and Chairman of the Health Subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee; state leader on mental health policy;
  - **The Honorable James W. Dyke, Jr.** (*McGuire Woods*), former Virginia Secretary of Education, who will speak about how public-private partnerships can improve and positively impact how the mental health needs of Virginia's Medicaid population are being served;
  - **Dr. Stanton Samenow**, specialist in the evaluation and treatment of juvenile and adult offenders, having participated in the longest in-depth clinical research-treatment study of offenders conducted in Northern America; also recognized for authoring numerous books and articles, and has appeared frequently on national radio and television broadcasts;

(MORE)

- Presentation of **Community Service Awards** recognizing:
  - **31<sup>st</sup> Court Services Unit Food Basket Drive** – Representatives Ellen Patterson, James Rankin, Lynn Dotson and Lester Leonard will be honored for their efforts to provide holiday meals to more than 73 needy families annually in Prince William County, working collaboratively with government, courts, schools and local businesses to address a community need in a personal and significant way; and
  - **Mr. Bud Sedwick (Comprehensive Services Act Coordinator for Henry and Patrick Counties and the City of Martinsville; Pastor, Fieldale Outreach Ministries, The Church of God of Prophecy)** – Mr. Sedwick will be recognized for going above and beyond in supporting the needs of children in his community, both through his job as CSA coordinator providing child-centered, family-focused and community-based services for children in need, as well as through his extensive community and church involvement.
- 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 Mindy Williams at [mwilliams@accesspointpa.com](mailto:mwilliams@accesspointpa.com) or 703-222-7607 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 15 years. NCG has received many accolades for providing a variety of outpatient and community-based services to address community mental health needs throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. NCG currently has offices in Annandale, the Eastern Shore, Herndon/Dulles, Hopewell, Manassas, Martinsville, Newport News, Richmond, Virginia Beach, Roanoke and Winchester.*

*NCG specializes in treating behavioral problems, substance abuse issues, mental health disorders and family discord. As a result, countless professionals have utilized NCG to service the needs of children, adolescents, young adults, adults and families. In addition to receiving referrals from private psychiatrists, attorneys, and physicians, NCG has strong relationships with public agencies throughout Virginia. NCG has contracts with more than 100 public agencies (including various Departments of Social Services, Court Services Units, Community Service Boards and public schools) and serves clients in more than 50 counties.*

*In addition, NCG is playing a major role to increase the accessibility of care to children, adults and families through public-private partnerships, provision of community-based programming, offering Medicaid-funded services and through charitable giving. In fact, in 2007 alone, NCG served more than 4,000 individuals and donated more than \$300,000 to community causes. For more information about NCG, visit [www.nationalcounselinggroup.com](http://www.nationalcounselinggroup.com).*