



MEDIA RELEASE
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**Newport News “Post-D Melody Makers” Showcased at
National Counseling Group’s National Conference in Richmond**

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***Post-Dispositional Program recognized at NCG’s 1st Conference;
Featured at Event Celebrating Public-Private Partnerships in the Mental Health Arena***

Richmond, Va. – The Newport News “Post-D Melody Makers” will be showcased at the National Counseling Group’s Second National Conference, which will take place on Thursday, May 1, 2008, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. at the Greater Richmond Convention Center (403 North Third Street, Richmond, Va.). The Post-Dispositional band is made up of youth who are in the Newport News Juvenile Services Post-Dispositional Program, which is a six-month residential program that provides an alternative to long-term Department of Corrections placement.

For the past several years, the National Counseling Group (NCG), under the leadership of its President and CEO, Tom Minnick, has partnered with Newport News Juvenile Services in providing youth anger management, conflict resolution, substance abuse and social skills groups, as well as individual and family counseling.

“This public-private partnership has enabled successful treatment of many of the youth who graduate from our program,” said Larry Robinson, Director of Juvenile Services. He continued, “NCG has stepped up to recognize a need in our community and is doing something to address it in a real way. When we partner with the community and NCG, we are able to address issues as a team and the kids benefit more from these relationships than just the program.”

In addition to receiving mental health services while in the Post-Dispositional Program, many of the youth are also able to earn their GED, pursue employment opportunities, and prepare for placement at Thomas Nelson Community College. They are also exposed to many different social, educational and cultural opportunities, such as music, through the Post-D Melody Makers.

“Many of the youth in our program have never picked up an instrument before becoming a member of the Post-D Melody Makers,” said Newport News Juvenile Service Counselor Larry Driver, who provides musical direction for the band. “This is a special opportunity for these kids.” The band has performed in front of groups including Newport News City Government, Hampton City Government, the Virginia Cooperative Extension, and the Honorable Congressman Bobby Scott.

The NCG National Conference where the Post-D Melody Makers will perform in Richmond will also feature remarks from Governor Tim Kaine, Del. Phil Hamilton of Newport News, former Secretary of Education Jim Dyke, and nationally known mental health expert, Dr. Stanton Samenow.

Community Service Awards, which the Post-Dispositional Program in Newport News received in 2007, will also be presented at the event to the 31st Court Services Unit Food Basket Drive, recognizing their efforts to provide holiday meals to needy families, and to Mr. Bud Sedwick, Comprehensive Services Act Coordinator for Henry and Patrick Counties and the City of Martinsville, who will be recognized for going above and beyond in supporting the needs of children in his community.

The overall focus of the conference will be on celebrating NCG's 15 years providing premium mental health services to individuals and families throughout Virginia, as well as on showcasing the positive impact public-private partnerships can have serving mental health needs in Virginia.

"We look forward to hearing the performance from the Post-D Melody Makers at the conference," said Mr. Minnick. "It will show, first-hand, how the public and private sector can have a real impact on real people when working together."

Attendance at the conference is free for members of the media with advance registration; Contact Mindy Williams at 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.

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