



MEDIA RELEASE
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**Comprehensive Services Act Coordinator Bud Sedwick to be
Honored with *Community Service Award* at
National Counseling Group's National Conference in Richmond**

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***CSA Coordinator for Martinsville, Henry and Patrick Counties Recognized;
Featured at Event Celebrating Public-Private Partnerships in the Mental Health Arena***

Richmond, Va. – Mr. Bud Sedwick, Comprehensive Services Act (CSA) Coordinator for Henry and Patrick Counties, and the City of Martinsville, will be honored with a *Community Service Award* 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.). Mr. Sedwick, who is also a Pastor with Fieldale Outreach Ministries and Church of God of Prophecy, is being recognized for supporting the children in his community in exceptional ways, both through his job as CSA Coordinator, and through his extensive community and church involvement.

In his position as CSA Coordinator, Mr. Sedwick works with foster care, schools and courts to help facilitate mental health placements and services for children by coordinating community leaders meetings where the best possible services for children in need can be identified. His goal is to perform his job in a way that is "child-centered, family-focused and community-based." While he acknowledges he has seen many success stories that were enabled by his work over the past 16 years, he says he, "cannot stop until a complete array of needed services are available to all our community's children."

To achieve this end, he and his wife, Faye, have focused much of their time and energy on ministries for children. From Idaho, to Pennsylvania, to Virginia, Mr. Sedwick has contributed much to the youth in his communities. He is currently involved in a number of youth ministry programs, including one called Main Stream, which offers children's activities and fellowship opportunities. This program encourages participation in the church, as well as in the community, by the children. Another program in which he is involved, Royal Rangers, includes pinewood derbies, camping and opportunities for young people to learn life skills that are invaluable as they grow into adults. The overall focus of his ministry work is to "create a Christian environment for youth to learn life skills, have fun with each other, and to serve their community."

"Perhaps Mr. Sedwick helps children most by setting a positive example," said Tom Minnick, President and CEO of the National Counseling Group (NCG), the organization that is honoring Mr. Sedwick. "He clearly puts his community, and specifically, children, first in all he does, which is positively impacting so many of our youth who may grow up to give back to their communities as Mr. Sedwick is doing for them."

Mr. Sedwick and his wife also support their church's Christmas Food Box program, which just completed its second year. In two short years, the program grew from feeding four families in the first year, to 14 in its second year. They are hopeful for continued growth in that program as it continues. In the summer, the Sedwicks shift gears, leading a statewide camping ministry in the Church of God of Prophecy. Through this ministry, a three-day camp is offered each June, providing opportunities for children and their parents to spend time together and for the parents, guidance on how to be effective parents in all areas of their children's lives.

The leadership of NCG first met Mr. Sedwick as they worked to open their Martinsville facility in the summer of 2007. Given the limited resources in the Martinsville area to meet the mental health needs, particularly of children, the opening of NCG's Martinsville office was met with great enthusiasm by Mr. Sedwick, as well as others in the community. "NCG has been able to help fill the void in our part of the Commonwealth with their ability to serve children and youth through their Medicaid-funding programming, allowing schools, the Department of Social Services and Court Services Units to refer patients directly to NCG when they need the services, rather than add them to waiting lists," said Mr. Sedwick.

The NCG National Conference where Mr. Sedwick will be honored 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. In addition to presenting a Community Service Award to Mr. Sedwick, NCG will also honor the 31st Court Services Unit Food Basket Drive, which will be recognized for providing holiday meals to needy families annually in the Prince William County, Va., area.

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.

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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