FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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THE MENTAL HEALTH TRANSFORMATION IN ACTION
CONFERENCE, AWARDS CEREMONY AND LUNCHEON
For Consumers, Law Enforcement and Community Partners

~ Miami conference confronts the challenges and successes of consumers, law enforcement and community partners to improve the lives of people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders involved with the criminal justice system. The conference also serves to provide education and recognize outstanding community achievements. ~

May 12, 2014 (Miami, Florida) - The Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Florida, Florida Partners in Crisis Miami-Dade Chapter, the Florida Department of Children and Families Southern Region Substance Abuse and Mental Health Program and the Statewide Consumer Network will host The Mental Health Transformation in Action Conference, Awards Ceremony and Luncheon for Consumers, Law Enforcement and Community Partners. South Florida Behavioral Health Network, Magellan complete Care, HCA Hospitals of Miami-Dade County, Jackson Health System, UM Hospital Westchester Hospital, Geo Care, Janssen Pharmaceuticals and Larkin Community Hospital will sponsor the event. It is anticipated that there will be approximately 500 people in attendance.

The event will be held on May 29, 2014 at the Jungle Island, Treetop Ballroom in Miami, Florida

The Mental Health Transformation in Action conference will begin at 8:30 am for registration and continental breakfast. Many behavioral health and community service providers from our local community and Monroe County will display exhibits and provide resource information at this time.

At 9:30 am, Michael Putney from WPLG will moderate a panel discussion that will focus on how mental illness impacts stakeholders within our community. The panel will respond to a scenario that will reveal personal dilemmas facing individuals, families, medical and criminal justices systems that can assist – or impede – treatment and recovery.

At 11:00 am, our guest speaker Congressman Patrick Kennedy will discuss his struggles with depression and bipolar disorder for much of his life and in 2008, he brought his passion for mental health research and advocacy into the spotlight when he co-authored and was the lead sponsor of the Mental Health Parity & Addictions Equity Act. This legislation provides tens of millions of Americans who were previously denied care with access to mental health treatment.

The conference will be followed by the Awards Ceremony and Luncheon at 12:00 pm. Michael Putney will serve as Master of Ceremony. Judge Steve Leifman, a long-time champion of people with mental illnesses who has served the Florida Supreme Court as a special advisor on mental health issues in the justice system will be the guest speaker. Awards will be presented to Consumers, Law Enforcement and Community Partners.