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**ABH Announces 2009 Recognition Awards:  
Frank Sacco of Community Services Institute Honored**

NATICK, MA – The Association for Behavioral Healthcare (ABH) (formerly Mental Health and Substance Abuse Corporations of Massachusetts, Inc. (MHSACM)), a statewide organization representing ninety-one community-based behavioral healthcare provider organizations, announced its 2009 Recognition Awards at its annual Provider Celebration on October 23, 2009. Each year, ABH recognizes human service employees, young people, consumer and family advocates and others who have made outstanding contributions to the fields of mental health and substance abuse treatment.

Frank Sacco, Ph.D., President of Community Services Institute, was awarded *Robert A. Dorwart, M.D. Award* for his leadership and long-term commitment to mental health prevention and treatment and to the delivery of high quality care.

“The Provider Celebration allows us to honor individuals like Frank Sacco who work without fanfare to stand up every day to make life better for individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders and their families,” said Vic DiGravio, ABH’s President/CEO. “Frank is tireless in his efforts to ensure that vulnerable individuals receive the care necessary to live independently in our communities and are never again relegated to society’s shadows.”

The *Robert A. Dorwart, M.D. Award* is given annually to an individual in the field of mental health who has demonstrated significant leadership in community mental health. Dr. Dorwart possessed a strong commitment to services for the seriously mentally ill and devoted his life to working in and studying the community mental health system.

Dr. Frank Sacco has been a pioneer in mental health services for the past twenty-five years and has gone above and beyond the call of duty in trying to address the basic needs of consumers and their families. He has always made it his personal goal to try to help every individual to the best of his ability. His passion is obvious in all he does, and has impacted the entire mental health community. Frank, in one way or another, has touched the lives of many who otherwise might have gone without the care and treatment they need.

Frank’s commitment to the field of mental health is obvious to all who know him. He is an outspoken advocate in order to advance opportunities for the people he serves. He encourages everyone he knows to advocate as well. Although Frank has worked within the field for many years, he continues to be an enthusiastic and passionate leader whose actions are characterized by his deep values.

ABH honored awardees at a ceremony in Waltham. ABH members are the primary providers of mental health and substance abuse treatment and services in Massachusetts. Member providers and their 20,000 dedicated employees provide clinically effective and cost-sensitive care to 117,000 individuals on any given day in communities throughout the state.

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