



**Henderson Mental Health Center (HMHC) to Present Award-winning, Best Practice Treatment Model – The B.R.I.D.G.E. Project - at 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Recovery & Resiliency Conference on May 21<sup>st</sup> at the Nova Southeastern University Huizenga School of Business**

Fort Lauderdale, Florida (May 10, 2010) – Henderson Mental Health Center’s “**Broward Recovery Initiative for Dual Diagnosis Guidance and Empowerment (B.R.I.D.G.E.) Project**” provides adolescents who are experiencing co-occurring mental health and substance abuse disorders with a coordinated, continuous and integrated system of care.

Referrals to the BRIDGE Project are received from a variety of sources across systems, including the Connections centralized case management program, the Juvenile Intervention Facility, Department of Juvenile Justice, school social workers, the Youth Emergency Services (YES) program, BRIDGE partners, other providers, local hospitals, the courts via Marchman Act, and self referrals.

The BRIDGE model was initially implemented by Henderson Mental Health Center in 2002 and continues to achieve remarkable results for these young people, such as:

- 84% of clients served reduced drug and alcohol use.
- 87% of clients served improved social and emotional functioning.
- 84% of clients served remained drug-free six months after discharge.
- Clients have spent an average of 27days in the community (i.e. not in the hospital, residential treatment, DJJ, etc.) at 90 days post-discharge and an average of 27 days in the community 180 days post-discharge.
- 100% of staff members acquire and demonstrate the skill to provide effective human services.

In 2009, the Florida Department of Children and Families and The Florida Alcohol and Drug Abuse Association announced Henderson Mental Health Center’s BRIDGE Project was the recipient of the “Substance Abuse Services Best Practices Award”. For these reasons, HMHC staff will present the nuts and bolts of the program, including a detailed description of its reliance on Motivational Interviewing at the May 21<sup>st</sup> Conference hosted by the United Way of Broward County Commission on Substance Abuse and to be held on the campus of Nova Southeastern University. Channel 7’s Investigative Reporter, Carmel Cafiero, is the Keynote Speaker. To register for the event, call 954-760-7007, ext. 201. For professionals seeking CEU’s, the fee is \$50; for non-professionals the cost \$25 for the full day Conference. The purpose of the 5<sup>th</sup> annual conference is to increase knowledge and understanding related to substance abuse addiction and to promote recovery.

Henderson Mental Health Center’s CEO, Dr. Steven Ronik, said “HMHC is honored to be a part of such an important effort to educate and inform, but is most proud of the effectiveness of the BRIDGE Project at rescuing youth and their families from the grip of addiction. We aim to improve the odds for these youth and we succeed.”

*Henderson Mental Health Center is the oldest and largest, not-for-profit behavioral healthcare system in south Florida. Henderson’s programs are accredited by CARF, the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, at the highest level. Visit us at [www.hendersonmhc.org](http://www.hendersonmhc.org) and learn how we help more than 20,000 people of all ages each year have a fuller life and how you can become a part of our efforts.*

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