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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Bay State Community Services Awarded
Community Service Agency Contract**
33 Children and Families Already Receiving Services

PLYMOUTH, MA – September 16, 2009 – As part of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS) Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative (CBHI), Bay State Community Services (BSCS) was awarded a Community Service Agency (CSA) contract for the Plymouth area in March, 2009. Since then, BSCS worked to make sure the Court Street location was ready for the June 30 program commencement date.

“Today, we have a team of employees providing intensive Care Coordination and Family Support and Training services to 33 Plymouth-area children and their families”, said Kenneth Tarabelli, President and Chief Executive Officer of Bay State Community Services. “Bay State is one of 32 CSAs throughout the state that will assist an estimated 15,000 children under the age of 21 who are enrolled in MassHealth Standard and CommonHealth.”

The Children’s Behavioral Health Initiative came about as a result of the 2006 *Rosie D.* court decision and the subsequent *Rosie D.* remedial plan, which outlines the road to reform of the children’s mental health system in Massachusetts. It is because of this that Bay State Community Services is able to offer this integrated system of coordinated services to MassHealth Standard and CommonHealth eligible children with serious emotional disturbance (SED).

“This is the most phenomenal resource I’ve seen to date for parents of children with mental illness”, said parent family partner, Cathy Sullivan. “For the first time ever, parents are able to connect to support networks and resources from one main source. This side by side team approach allows for advocating, educating and empowering parents to take control of their child’s mental health needs. As a parent who’s been there, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to help other parents and collaborate with professionals to give these kids the services they require.”

To receive services, referrals can be made to their area Community Service Agency by the family directly or with permission from the family, by the community providers (i.e. state agency staff, mobile crisis intervention, school staff, behavioral health providers, primary care physicians or residential providers. Based on the information from the referral source, the CSA Program Director will try to match the family with the best Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) team combination that can meet their cultural and linguistic needs. The ICC staff completes a Comprehensive Home-Based Assessment and CANS which assesses the family’s strengths, needs and challenges to determine eligibility into the program. If the youth is eligible for ICC, the family, care coordinator, family partner and a team of professionals and natural supports identified by the family are assembled to develop an Individualized Care Plan. The family and team in partnership determine the needs and the interventions that will be selected to meet those needs. This family-centered approach to services puts the families in the driver’s seat as the expert of their own families and children’s needs. For more information about the Community Service Agency, please contact Michelle Beery-Brooks, Program Director for the Plymouth Area, at 508-830-3444 ext. 302.

Bay State Community Services, Inc. (BSCS) was founded in 1991 through the merger of five local, nonprofit agencies, including Quincy-based Survival, Inc. and South Shore Council on Alcoholism. Today, throughout Southeastern Massachusetts BSCS offers a unique continuum of social, mental health, addiction and correctional services. Most programs offer help based on need regardless of ability to pay; all recognize the primary importance of individual, family and community empowerment. BSCS continually strives to partner with clients and community in the most direct, honest and whole-hearted manner as possible. For more information on Bay State Community Services, Inc., please visit www.baystatecs.org.

For more information about the Rosie D. court case, please visit www.rosied.org.

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