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**Contact information:**  
Vic DiGravio 508-647-8385

**ABH Announces 2009 Recognition Awards:  
Ken Tarabelli of Bay State Community Services 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.

Ken Tarabelli, President and CEO of Bay State Community Services, was presented with the *Unsung Hero Award* for his dedication to individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders.

Bay State Community Services was formed in 1991 through a merger of five community-based agencies that had a 100-year collective history of providing innovative, responsive, and accessible programming to the people of the Greater Boston and Southeastern areas of Massachusetts. Ken had been the executive director of one of those agencies since 1975, and it was under his leadership that these agencies merged and he was chosen as the new executive director.

Merging multiple agencies, each with its own culture, programs, policies and resources, was a true test of Ken's abilities. His process was deliberate and thoughtful as he spent countless hours negotiating differences, developing mutual respect and building common themes. He set about the task of crafting a mission statement and vision that highlighted the history of each agency and the future of Bay State Community Services. Ken's extraordinary commitment and thoughtful and deliberate planning stabilized the agency and created a solid foundation for the future.

Bay State is now dedicated to improving the social functioning of adults, adolescents, and children within a framework that recognizes the primary importance of family and community. It is with thanks to Ken's leadership, and his quiet and unassuming ways that Bay State continues to be a healthy, cohesive agency with a clear mission to address social issues in a direct, honest and whole-hearted manner. Bay State's success can be attributed to Ken's extraordinary leadership, and his down-to-earth approach to serving the community.

"The Provider Celebration allows us to honor individuals like Ken Tarabelli 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. "Ken's devotion to his work is truly inspiring."

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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