

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Hampton, Virginia

**Wednesday, April 15, 2009 – Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board is awarded \$620,000 as the regional fiscal agent from the Virginia Department of Veteran Services to Implement a Regional Wounded Warrior Program.**

The Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board, on behalf of the Health Planning Region V Community Services Boards (HPR V CSBs), has been awarded a \$620,000 federal grant from the Virginia Department of Veteran Services to implement a regional Wounded Warrior Program. The Virginia Wounded Warrior Program (VWWP) was established by the 2008 Virginia General Assembly via House Bill 475 and Senate Bill 297 and signed by Governor Timothy Kaine. The VWWP is under the authority of the Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS), in cooperation with the Commissioners of the Departments of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) and Rehabilitative Services (DRS). The purpose of the VWWP is to ensure the timely provision of assessment, treatment, and support for stress-related injuries, post traumatic stress disorder, and traumatic brain injuries resulting from service in combat by Virginia veterans, members of the Virginia National Guard and Virginia residents in the Armed Forces Reserves who are not in active federal service. Charles A. Hall, Executive Director of the Hampton-Newport News Community Services Board in accepting the award stated *"The Wounded Warrior grant program builds upon the existing community mental health or CSB system throughout Virginia, greatly improving access to needed services by veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. This grant is an example of the commitment of CSB staff to more appropriately serve members of the military and their families."*

The development of this region's VWWP grant included a collaborative effort that

consisted of the HPR V CSBs, the Veterans Administration Medical Center, Virginia Commonwealth University Center for Psychological Services and Development and Life Skills Center, Old Dominion University Counseling Center, the Brain Injury Network (Mary Buckley Foundation, Community Futures Foundation, Mary Foundation), and other providers of vocational and educational services. The HPR V CSBs consist of Chesapeake, Colonial, Eastern Shore, Hampton-Newport News, Mid Peninsula Northern Neck, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, and Western Tidewater. The grant will provide a broad array of services for veterans and affected family members that range from case management and psychological services to day programs and employment services. Also included is the development of an outreach, education and training curriculum that can be replicated in other parts of the Commonwealth. According to Mr. William H. Park, Executive Director of the Portsmouth Department of Behavioral Health and regional chair of the HPR V CSB Executive Directors, "*We are delighted and humbled to have this special opportunity to provide needed services to veterans and their family members who have given so much of themselves for all of us. We believe the collaboration of the HPR V CSBs with the Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS), Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services (DMHMRSAS) and Rehabilitative Services (DRS) has resulted in the offering of a comprehensive system of care that serves as a major first step in responding to the needs of our veterans and we look forward to implementing the program.*"

The Hampton-Newport News CSB will serve as the fiscal agent and coordination entity for the grant project. The project is anticipated to begin April 2009 with the current fund cycle ending June 2011.