## *FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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# Local Director Re-Elected to Help Advance Nation's Mental Health Care Treatment

***TAMPA, April 11, 2007-*** Directions for Mental Health, Inc., a private non-profit mental health organization in Clearwater, announces the re-election of their President & CEO, Thomas Riggs, to the Mental Health Corporations of America (MHCA) Board of Directors.

MHCA is a national alliance of organizations that provides behavioral health services. Members are selected by invitation only and are affiliated with the highest quality behavioral healthcare organizations across the country. Riggs was invited to be a member of MHCA nearly 20 years ago and has served on the board of directors for the past 10 years.

"Being re-elected is a tremendous honor," said Riggs. "Having Directions recognized at a national level shows what an impact we have in the behavioral health industry both locally and nation wide."

Riggs will be participating in a forum of mental health professionals that analyzes trends and predicts future needs. He will also serve on various committees to help advance the nation's mental health care treatment.

Currently, MHCA has 143 members in 34 states. You can learn more about MHCA at www.mhca.com.

***About Directions for Mental Health, Inc.***

Directions for Mental Health, Inc., established in 1982, is a non-profit organization committed to helping heal the hurt in the lives of thousands of Pinellas County residents suffering from—or at risk of—mental illness. With nationally accredited programs, Directions sets the standard for best practices in mental health treatment, while making mental health care affordable and accessible to individuals and families, and building a safer, healthier community. Serving more than 8,000 people per year, Directions is dedicated to developing innovative programs that change lives, while reducing crime, homelessness, drug abuse and child abuse.

For questions about mental illness and programs, visit Directions for Mental Health's website at www.directionsmh.org or call (727) 524-4464 extension 1700.

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