

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mental Health America of Wisconsin

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## **Shel Gross appointed chair of the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH)**

(Wisconsin) – Mental Health America of Wisconsin (MHA) is pleased to announce that on July 1, 2011, Shel Gross, MHA Director of Public Policy, assumed the position of Chair of the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH). The WCMH is a statutorily mandated council appointed by the Governor whose role is to advise the Governor, Legislature and state agencies on mental health policy. Such a council is a requirement for the receipt of about \$7.5 million in federal mental health block grant funds and the council reviews the use of these funds as well.

Shel became a member of the WCMH last year but has been a member of and Chair of the WCMH's Legislative and Policy Committee for the past 10 years. In that role Shel has worked with the broad range of mental health consumer, family, advocacy and provider groups to develop legislative and budget priorities for the WCMH and to respond to mental health issues in the state budget and introduced bills.

Shel is clear on his goals as Chair of the WCMH: "Since my election as Chair at the WCMH's May meeting one thing I have heard most consistently is a desire for a clear vision for mental health services in Wisconsin. This coincides with new federal requirements as part of the mental health block grant for state level strategic planning leading to a set of priorities and goals for the State. It is my hope that over the next two years I can work with the members of the WCMH, its committees and all interested stakeholders to create a set of priorities and goals that reflect a joint vision for what we want mental health services to look like in Wisconsin."

Mental Health America of Wisconsin is a non-profit, 501(c) 3 organization dedicated to promoting mental health, preventing mental disorders and achieving victory over mental illness through advocacy, education, information and support.

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