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**SOUND MENTAL HEALTH PEER SPECIALISTS PARTICIPATE IN
TOP CHILDREN’S MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE**

SEATTLE – July 14, 2010 – The Georgetown University Center for Child and Human Development (GUCCHD) invited Jody Schreven and Cathy Clem, Parent Partner peer specialists from Sound Mental Health, to attend their Training Institutes symposium to share ideas, strategies and innovative best practices from their child and youth mental health programs. The event takes place in Washington D.C., from July 14-18, 2010.

One of the country’s leading conferences dedicated to systems of care for children and families, GUCCHD’s Training Institutes attracts thousands from the nation’s mental health establishment to learn about emerging practices and models of care in the field.

The week-long conference covers a wide range of topics including policy, research, and ground breaking clinical services. Clem and Schreven, whose presentation is entitled “Strengths in Partnerships for Families,” will highlight their efforts as Parent Partners, sharing key program templates and its promising, innovative wraparound approach. Parent Partnership strengthens the comprehensive and personalized approach of wraparound programs and is applied to an individual’s specific needs.

Sound Mental Health was invited to participate, in particular, because of its track record of success developing and implementing wraparound services for children and families—and its strong use of Parent Partner peer specialists as a central part of the practice. Parent Partner peer specialists are individuals who have been consumers of mental health services -- as either recipients or as caregivers to recipients. Because of their life experience, peer specialists are vital to helping clients navigate the mental health system toward their recovery.

“Parent Partner peer specialists make up a vital part of our children’s wraparound approach,” said Trish Blanchard, chief clinical officer at Sound Mental Health. “With success in pioneering this practice in our children, youth and family programs, we are eager to share our insights and encourage replication among our colleagues.”

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To learn more about Sound Mental Health's children's and family programs, visit www.smh.org. More information about the GUCCHD Training Institutes conference can be found at <http://gucchd.georgetown.edu/training/88504.html>.

About Sound Mental Health

Sound Mental Health is a private, non-profit organization that has provided a comprehensive array of mental health and related services to the King County community since 1966. Our goal is to help individuals and families achieve the highest level of independence and (mental) health possible. Services are tailored to meet the unique needs of different age, disability and cultural/ethnic groups. To learn more, visit www.smh.org.

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