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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2009 KEEPING IT REAL CONFERENCE HERALDED AS GREAT SUCCESS

The Keeping It Real 2009: Street-Level Intervention Strategies for Addiction, HIV/AIDS, and Hepatitis, a national conference on addiction, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis was held in Baltimore, Maryland September 30th through October 2nd. The conference was attended by more than 200 outreach workers and other healthcare professionals from across the country. The participants came from 22 states and the District of Columbia.

Speakers at the conference included federal and state officials, such as Jack Stein, PhD., Director, Division of Services Improvement, at the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), and John Colmers, Secretary of Health & Mental Hygiene in Maryland, as well as nationally recognized presenters like Thelma King Thiel, CEO of Hepatitis Foundation International.

The Keeping It Real conference is designed to enhance the professional development of outreach workers, addiction counselors, and allied health professionals who work with substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, hepatitis, and other infectious diseases.

Participants were able to attend training sessions which were grouped into three primary areas: Outreach Skills Training, Self-Care for the Outreach/Prevention Worker, and Research-Based Information on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis and Substance Abuse. Vikki Darceuil a conference attendee and program coordinator for a community-based program said, "I loved the conference. I came back to my office with so much new found energy and hope. You guys were so informative!"

This annual conference is sponsored by the Central East Addiction (Central East) Technology Transfer Center, through its Center for HIV, Hepatitis, and Addiction Training and Technology (CHHATT), which is a National Addiction Technology Transfer Center network Center of Excellence. The Central East is a federally funded grant program managed by The Danya Institute, Inc., of Silver Spring, Maryland.