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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NATIONAL ADDICTION, HIV/AIDS, AND HEPATITIS CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER

A national conference on addiction, HIV/AIDS and hepatitis will be held in Baltimore, Maryland on September 30 through October 2, 2009 at the Marriott Inner-Harbor at Camden Yards.

The conference, called *Keeping It Real 2009: Street-Level Intervention Strategies for Addiction, HIV/AIDS, and Hepatitis*, will provide cutting-edge information on issues related to HIV/AIDS, hepatitis and substance abuse. National experts will address such topics as addiction and co-infection with HIV/AIDS and hepatitis, rapid-testing for hepatitis C, improving efforts in working with hard-to-reach and special populations, and much more.

The 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.

The annual conference is sponsored by the Central East Addiction (Central East) Technology Transfer Center in Silver Spring, through its Center for HIV, Hepatitis, and Addiction Training and Technology Center (CHHATT). The CHHATT is a Center of Excellence and Central East, are programs of The Danya Institute of Silver Spring, Maryland.

The first day of the conference will feature representatives from the Federal Government's Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the State of Maryland, and the City of Baltimore.

Speakers include H. Westley Clark, MD, JD, MPH, the Director of the Federal Government's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment; John Colmers, Maryland Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene; Heather Hauck, Director of Maryland AIDS Administrator; and Deputy Mayor of Baltimore Salima Siler Marriott.

"The Keeping it Real 2009 conference is the Nation's premier research-to-practice conference on addiction, HIV/AIDS, and hepatitis. Through this conference, Silver Spring's Central East Addiction Technology Transfer

Center harnesses the wisdom and knowledge of national experts and provides this information to front-line professionals. It is the only conference of its kind in the nation.” —Tom Durham, PhD, Executive Director, the Danya Institute, and Director, the Central East Addiction Technology Transfer Center.