

GUIDE Independence—Award from Prince George’s Count The Writers’ Pool, June 2005

GUIDE’s previously award-winning Independence Program accrued yet an additional recognition by Prince George’s County this year. The Psychiatric Residential Rehabilitation Program in the New Carrollton area that serves 59 consumers through housing, supported employment, social activities, and other rehabilitation services was recognized by the County’s Department of Family Resources, Mental Health and Disabilities Administration (MHADA) for a 2005 licensing visit without citations or the need for corrective actions. The “Cleanest Licensing Visit Award” was



presented on June 23, 2005 to Stefanie Rupertus, the program’s Director, and her staff at the Eleventh Annual Recognition Luncheon and Ceremony. The presentation was made

by L. Christina Waddler, Administrator of the MHADA along with Adrienne Bennett, the Department’s Director and James Dula, the County’s Deputy Chief Administrative Officer for Health and Human Services. According to Ms. Waddler, “During this fiscal year . . . [GUIDE Independence was] visited by the Mental Hygiene Administration’s licensing staff and were awarded maximum certification, with no Program Improvement Plan (PIP) warranted . . . which rarely occurs.”

In previous years, GUIDE Independence has been recognized by the County for a range of awards including: “Adult Program of the Year”; “RRP with the Most Graduations” (for having the highest rate of upward mobility within the program’s residential client population); and “Thinking Outside the Box” (for establishing creative strategies for working with at-risk clients.) The



agency received the “Program of the Year Award in 2004.”

Joining Ms. Rupertus, Waynett Wilson (Residential Coordinator), Alex Akinkuowo (Supported Employment Program Coordinator), and Erika Gregory (Assistant Residential Coordinator) from GUIDE Independence at this year’s awards ceremony were Amina Aleem, Team Leader, GUIDE Juvenile Justice, Family Intervention Service (FIS), Lisa Britt, FIS, Endrias Afework, the Oak Lane Home, Program Director, Amanda Findley, Oak Lane’s Clinician, and Scott Birdsong, GUIDE’s Executive Director.



**Mental Health and Disabilities Administration
2005 “Cleanest Licensing Visit Award”**