

**For immediate release by Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc. – 06/15/09**

**Contact: Craig Sherman PH: 665-4659 Ext. 218**

### **MENTAL WELLNESS AWARDS PRESENTED**

(Yankton) Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc (YAMWI) presented awards to key supporters promoting mental health services within the community and across the region. The awards were presented during the Eleventh Annual Mental Wellness Conference, held on June 3 & 4, 2009, at Mount Marty College. The YAMWI Board of Directors Award recognized Dr. Alan Brevik. The Conference Theme Award “Celebrating the Stars Among Us” reflected the contributions by Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services, Inc. The Professional Leadership Award was presented to Betty Viau. The Mental Wellness Community Service Award was presented to the Yankton Hy-Vee Food Store. The awards were presented by Thomas Stanage, Executive Director of Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services, Inc and Matt Michels, Avera Health. Both Stanage and Michels are members of the Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc Board of Directors.

### **YAMWI Board of Directors Award**

**Dr. Alan Brevik**

The Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc Board of Directors Award recognizes invaluable involvement, which is evidenced by the progress seen for YAMWI. The Board of Directors Award recognizes outstanding support and service for the Yankton Area Mental Wellness Conference.

Modest, brilliant, mentor – those are three common adjectives associated with the name Dr. Alan Brevik. He has been recognized by many organizations and agencies and has earned and deserved every honor. Dr. Brevik could be considered a gentle giant, not because of his size, but rather because of his soft-spoken manner and seemingly limitless knowledge. While he could be fully retired and enjoying relaxation, up until recently he worked more hours to serve those with mental illness than probably any other professional. Dr. Brevik is truly the region’s expert on Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT’s). He is also well educated on dual diagnosis and willing to serve patients with mental illness and chemical dependency. He is a proven leader and a professional committed to serving even those patients presenting with the most difficult forms of mental illness.

### **Professional Leadership Award**

**Betty Viau**

The Professional Leadership Award recognizes professional contributions in service to mental wellness. The award honors the individual’s commitment to promoting high quality services or advocacy on behalf of those with mental illness.

Betty Viau, Clinical Director of Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services, Inc in Yankton. As a registered nurse and counselor and nursing educator Betty has gained highest respect

throughout the region as a mental health professional. She has been a YAMWI Officer - most recently past Board Secretary. Her connections have brought outstanding presenters from throughout the state and region. Betty moderated the breakout “Effects of Depression and Suicide on a Community” at this year’s conference. She has regularly been interviewed by local media to share mental health public education and she has written numerous articles for the annual Press & Dakotan Mental Wellness Supplement.

## **Theme Award “Celebrating the Stars Among Us”**

**Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services, Inc & the Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services Board of Directors**

Each year Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc. chooses a theme for the annual conference. The 11<sup>th</sup> annual conference had the theme “*Celebrating the Stars Among Us*”. The 2009 theme emphasized the “Caring for Self...Caring for Community” that all the conferences have done this past decade. This award is presented in recognition of continued dedicated service to promoting acceptance and embracing differences, which fulfills this year’s YAMWI Conference Theme.

In 2003, L&CBHS established the state and region’s first assisted living facility for persons with Serious and Persistent Mental Illness that need special care. This was a major undertaking to literally build a facility and services from the ground up. Dr Thomas S. Stanage, the Board of Directors and the staff of Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services, the staff of Cedar Village Assisted Living Facility, as well as the residents and community as a whole should be commended for making Cedar Village a success. The facility opened September 2, 2003, and has had to increase licensed bed capacity to serve the residents in need. L&CBHS has been approached by residents and mental health advocates from several other South Dakota communities for guidance as those cities consider possibly replicating Cedar Village. The development of Cedar Village provides a significant community service that deserves recognition.

## **Mental Wellness Community Service Award**

**Yankton Hy-Vee Food Store**

The Mental Wellness Community Service Award is presented in recognition for service to those living with Mental Health concerns. The recipient brings greater attention to the mental wellness conference, promotes a spirit of collaboration between service providers, assists in recognizing the talents of local mental health professionals, supports mental health service delivery, promotes sharing of information, works to increase awareness for the mental health needs of local citizens, and promotes mental wellness by example or service.

Yankton’s HyVee Food Store, is under the management of Brad Dykes, Store Director. Brad and the store’s list of community service projects is limitless. There is probably not one non-profit agency in Yankton that has not benefited from HyVee donations, promotions, and commitment to helping others. Whenever one calls HyVee seeking support, Brad’s usual response is to ask what is needed and when it is needed. The HyVee theme: ‘A helpful smile in every isle’ definitely applies to Brad and the Yankton HyVee staff. They are truly committed to community service for mental wellness related agencies.

## About YAMWI

Many people from all throughout the region have come to rely on the YAMWI conference as a means for networking, for obtaining high quality education on mental health issues and for assistance in completing professional education to support licensure and recertification requirements. Planning is well underway for the 2010 conference to be held on June 9 & 10, 2010, at Mount Marty College. For more information on the 2010 YAMWI Conference contact: [www.yamwi.org](http://www.yamwi.org) or email [yamwi@gmail.com](mailto:yamwi@gmail.com)

### PHOTO:

*Yankton Area Mental Wellness, Inc. (YAMWI) presented awards to key supporters promoting mental health services within the community and across the region. Awards were presented during the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Yankton Area Mental Wellness Conference, held on June 3 & 4, 2009 at Mount Marty College, Yankton. Thomas Stanage, Executive Director of Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services, Inc and Matt Michels, Avera Health presented the following awards on behalf of YAMWI. The YAMWI Board of Directors Award was presented to Dr. Alan Brevik of Yankton, in recognition of outstanding support and service for the Yankton Area Mental Wellness Conference. The Professional Leadership Award was presented to Betty Viau of Yankton, in recognition for professional contributions to YAMWI as an officer and presenter for the Yankton Area Mental Wellness Conference. The Theme Award recognizes dedicated service that best fulfills this year's YAMWI Conference Theme "Celebrating the Stars Among Us" and was presented to Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services, Inc & the Lewis & Clark Behavioral Health Services Board of Directors. The Mental Wellness Community Service Award was presented to the Yankton Hy-Vee Food Store.*

### Photo:

*Front row left to right: Dr. Alan Brevik; Betty Viau*

*Back row left to right: Thomas Stanage; Brad Dykes*

-- 30 --

*Saved as: Media-Y09 Awards*