

**COLEMAN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES' PRESIDENT AND CEO
NELSON W. BURNS
CHOSEN FOR VISIONARY LEADER AWARD**

KENT, Ohio (April 1, 2011) Nelson W. Burns, President and CEO of Coleman Professional Services has been selected by The National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare to receive the Visionary Leadership Award for 2011.

Thirteen exemplary individuals and organizations will be presented with the National Council Awards of Excellence on May 3, 2011, during the 41st National Council Conference in San Diego, CA. The Awards of Excellence honor individuals and organizations that have significantly shaped behavioral health and improved the lives of people with mental illness and addiction disorders. Over 150 people were nominated and Burns was one of six selected to receive the award.



"Nelson Burns thinks outside the box. His entrepreneurial spirit and the new businesses he has created at Coleman Professional Services have created a funding stream unique in the behavioral healthcare marketplace," said Linda Rosenberg, MSW, president and CEO of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare. "He is a dynamic, imaginative leader, and his commitment to health, wellness, and a home for everyone has created a safe place for individuals with mental illness and substance use disorders to find care and support."

"I am humbled to be honored as a visionary leader for Coleman Professional Service," Mr. Burns said. "It is Coleman's Board, employees and volunteers who deserve credit for envisioning a successful future for persons with behavioral health and rehabilitation challenges."

Mr. Burns has been President and CEO of Coleman Professional Services for 25 years. Coleman Professional Services is a nationally recognized not-for-profit provider of behavioral health and rehabilitation programs that improve the lives of individuals, families and businesses in Ohio. When he joined what was then the Kevin Coleman Mental Health Center, it had an operating budget of just over one million dollars and only served Portage County. Under his leadership, the organization has grown to almost 26 million dollars and serves seven Ohio counties. In addition to Portage, those counties are: Allen, Auglaize, Hardin, Stark, Summit and Trumbull. The company's focus has grown as well. It began by providing outpatient and emergency mental health services and has expanded to include employment/vocational, residential, addiction and mediation services. Coleman also operates two adult day services locations in Portage County. Coleman currently employs 450 people in its seven counties.

Mr. Burns initiated a social enterprise model for the company, prior to that term being coined, in order to increase revenue and not rely solely on government payor sources. Coleman's enterprise companies along with the Coleman Foundation provide nearly 25% of the company's funding. Under Burns leadership, the Ohio EHR (Electronic Health Records) Collaborative was established in 2010. He has served in various behavioral health leadership roles in the state of Ohio, the CARF board, and the Ohio Council. He is currently on the MHCA board and Chair of the MHCA Marketing and Fundraising Committee. In addition to his work at Coleman, Mr. Burns serves as an adjunct professor for Kent State University, serves on the advisory board for the Kent State University Healthcare Executive MBA program, is a member of the Health Community Partnership of Portage County, and is an active member and former president of the Rotary Club of Kent,.

The National Council is the premier trade organization for America's behavioral health organizations. The National Council and its 1,800 member organizations serve the more than 8 million adults and children with mental illness and addiction disorders. The National Council is based in Washington, D.C.

Coleman Professional Services is a nationally recognized not-for-profit provider of behavioral health and rehabilitation programs that improve the lives of individuals, families and businesses in Ohio. The company relies on an Enterprise Business Model to diversify its funding. Its social enterprises and Coleman Foundation provide nearly 25 percent of revenue to support the company's award-winning clinical services.

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