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## News for Immediate Release

### NORTHEAST TRI-COUNTY PATHWAYS II PROJECT

KENT, Ohio (September 30, 2008) – The Northeast Tri-County Pathways Project, made up of many diverse behavioral health and rehabilitation services, has proposed an innovative collaboration that brings together many partners serving people with disabilities in Portage, Stark, and Trumbull counties. The innovative services will weave together supports, interventions from providers and educators, and employment services to facilitate exceptional employment outcomes. This project will aid in finding jobs for people with disabilities and helping them maintain employment.

The Mental Health & Recovery Services Board of Stark County will serve as the fiscal agent for the Northeast Tri-County proposal, and Coleman Professional Services (CPS) as the lead agency and Project Manager. Specifically in Portage County, the Mental Health & Recovery Board of Portage County, the Portage County Board of MRDD, Coleman Professional Services, and Career Assessment Services are the key partners. Additional partners who will refer to the project include the VA, Kent City Schools, and Maplewood Career Center.

The project will employ one Pathways Counselor in Portage County who will function similarly to a state Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. The Counselor will focus primarily on serving people with significant disabilities that are not limited to mental health disorders, transitional youth, who are young people in need of housing and veterans.

CPS will employ the Pathways Manager who will be based in the CPS corporate office located in Portage County. The manager will be mobile and may also have videoconferencing capacity to facilitate supervision. The manager will be responsible for project oversight, generating referrals to utilize the program and achieving the project outcomes. The CPS Vice President of Behavioral Health & Rehabilitation has over 20 years experience in vocational

rehabilitation and managed Pathways I. The President of Career Assessment Systems has over 20 years experience in providing vocational and employment services will provide administrative support.

The Northeast Tri-County Pathways II project will increase the capacity of Ohio to serve individuals with significant disabilities, transitional youth, and veterans by providing a comprehensive menu of vocational services. The array of services will be designed to assist people with disabilities in preparing for, securing, retaining, or regaining an employment outcome.

The unique aspect of this design is the expectation that all partners and collaborators will contribute resources to encourage extraordinary employment outcomes. All partners have impressive lists of stakeholders who are potential employers. All partners are expected to contact stakeholders for job leads and to share those job leads with Pathways Counselors and Job Development Services staff.

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 Northeast Ohio. The company relies on an enterprise business model to diversify its funding. Coleman's foundation and three enterprise companies produce more than 25 percent of the company's funding for its award-winning programs.

For more information on Coleman Professional Services or the services it offers, visit [www.coleman-professional.com](http://www.coleman-professional.com) or call 330-673-1347.

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