



MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF COLORADO

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UNTREATED MENTAL HEALTH DEPRESSING THE BOTTOM LINE

DENVER, Colo. - May 2, 2006 - Poor mental health and lack of treatment costs businesses money. *Big money.* Tuesday, May 2, 2006, the National Mental Health Association (NMHA) and the Mental Health Association of Colorado (MHAC) will host the President's Council Luncheon, a gathering of one hundred Denver businessmen and women, to emphasize the costs of not addressing mental health in the work place. The luncheon will be held at the Hyatt Denver Tech Center, 7800 East Tufts Avenue, 12:00-1:30p.m.

Philip Burguières, Vice Chairman of the Houston Texans football team, and leader of NMHA's President's Council will be the keynote speaker. He will address the specific costs of untreated mental health issues and offer solutions for business people to improve the work environment for all employees.

Jeanne M. Rohner, President and CEO of MHAC states, "Depression and other untreated mental health issues cost Colorado businesses \$200 to \$400 per month in lost productivity and absenteeism. With an 80 percent treatment success rate for depression, it just makes good business sense to provide prevention and treatment options in the workplace and through insurance plans."

Other costs to business include:

- 41 cents: Cost per month, per policy holder, to provide mental health coverage in business insurance plans
- 8.2 percent: Annual health insurance premium increase passed on to insured businesses due to uncompensated care
- 65 percent: Rate of job terminations related to unresolved mental health issues

The total economic cost of depression has been estimated at more than \$83 billion a year in this country, with more than half of that incurred by employers in lowered productivity, absenteeism and disability. The situation in Colorado is even more critical due to the high numbers of uninsured residents and a suicide rate that is 40 percent higher than the national average.

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About the Mental Health Association of Colorado

The Mental Health Association of Colorado, the Colorado affiliate of the National Mental Health Association, is the catalyst and voice for the Colorado mental health movement. Through Education, Advocacy and Outreach, we provide resources to Coloradoans affected by the entire spectrum of mental health issues.

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