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**CRC'S MARK SARNESO OF LATROBE, PA TO RECEIVE PRO-A  
"AMBASSADOR OF THE YEAR" DRUG ADDICTION RECOVERY  
LEADERSHIP AWARD IN HARRISBURG SEPT. 12**

(Harrisburg, PA)—Latrobe's Mark Sarneso, Vice President of Government Relations for CRC Health Group, the country's largest substance abuse treatment provider, and Chairman of DASPOP (Drug and Alcohol Service Providers of Pennsylvania), will receive the prestigious "Ambassador of the Year" award from the Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A), at the opening of the organization's Annual Conference, 6PM Tuesday, September 12, at the Holiday Inn East, Harrisburg: 4751 Lindle Rd # 104, Harrisburg, PA 17111 (across from the Wyndham Hotel).

PRO-A, a Pennsylvania statewide voice for the recovery community, describes the award as follows: **"Ambassador of the Year Award – Recipient, Mark Sarneso"**: "This award recognizes a community leader who works tirelessly to represent the best interest of the Recovery Community. They must demonstrate exceptional leadership qualities while promoting recovery, whether it be in a public or private forum. Their efforts should reach beyond the local level. Involvement in educating the public on the disease of addiction and the successes found within the recovery process is a plus in determining the recipient of this prestigious award."

Prior to his appointment as CRC's Vice President of Governmental Relations, Sarneso was Regional Vice President of CRC and Executive Director of White Deer Run, the largest provider of substance abuse services in Pennsylvania. At White Deer Run Sarneso oversaw a system with 20 locations treating 1,500 patients per day while employing 750 staff.

Dr. Barry Karlin, CEO of CRC Health Group, stated, "Mark. Sarneso brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and business acumen to the treatment field. He also has a keen understanding of the impact of public policy and legislative actions on the delivery of quality drug and alcohol treatment."

Since 1995, Sarneso has been Chairman of Drug and Alcohol Service Providers Organization of Pennsylvania, an advocacy group representing drug and alcohol treatment providers both in Harrisburg and Washington, DC. He has spent a great deal of time in the Capitol of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, advocating for increased public funding for drug and alcohol treatment. Sarneso holds a Master of Science Degree from the University of Pittsburgh's School of Social Work, is Reality Therapy certified, and has been in the treatment field since 1978.