

Latrobe Bulletin

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

SARNESO GIVEN TOP STATE AWARD

LATROBE, PA – Mark Sarneso of Latrobe has been named Ambassador of the Year by the Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance (PRO-A).

Sarneso, vice president of government relations for CRC Health Group and chairman of Drug and Alcohol Service Providers of Pennsylvania, will be presented with the prestigious award at the opening of the PRO-A's annual conference Tuesday, Sept. 12, in Harrisburg.

The 500-member PRO-A, a statewide voice for the recovery community, describes the award as recognizing one “community leader who works tirelessly to represent the best interest of the recovery community.” Among the criteria are that the recipient 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, said, “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 of Pennsylvania, an advocacy group representing drug and alcohol treatment providers both in Harrisburg and Washington, D.C. He has spent a great deal of time in Harrisburg advocating for increased public funding for drug and alcohol treatment.

A CRC spokesperson, Bob Weiner, commented that, “This is quite an accomplishment.”

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.



Mark Sarneso