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**MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CITY
REMARKS ON TODAY'S RULING THAT NEW YORK STATE
DISCRIMINATED AGAINST THE MENTALLY ILL**

New York, NY — September 8, 2009 — **Director of The Center for Policy and Advocacy of The Mental Health Association of New York City and Chair of the Geriatric Mental Health Alliance of New York, Michael Friedman**, made the following statement in response to United State District Court Judge Nicholas G. Garaufis' ruling that the state violated the Americans with Disabilities Act by housing thousands of mentally ill people in New York City in privately run adult homes.

The Mental Health Association of New York City is very pleased about today's judicial ruling that housing people with mental illness in adult homes is a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act. For years we have maintained that adult homes are not appropriately structured to meet the needs of people with serious mental illness, that they do not provide access to adequate treatment and rehabilitation services, and that they do not enable their residents to make a transition to living more independently in community settings. We have repeatedly called on the state to create a multi-year plan to develop appropriate housing opportunities for this population and to provide them with the rehabilitation and supportive services they will need to make the transition. This court ruling will require the state to do so--to the great benefit of adult home residents who would prefer to live elsewhere.

Friedman is available to comment.

About the Mental Health Association of New York City (MHA-NYC) and Link2Health Solutions

Mental Health Association of New York City (MHA-NYC) is a non-profit organization that addresses mental health needs in New York City and across the nation. It is a local organization with national impact and has a three-part mission of advocacy, education and mental health services. MHA-NYC identifies unmet needs and develops culturally sensitive services and programs to improve lives while promoting the importance of mental wellness. www.mhaofnyc.org

Link2Health Solutions, a wholly-owned subsidiary of MHA-NYC, is a leading innovator developing technology and communications infrastructure critical for supporting the emotional well-being of individuals and communities in need. Through its service networks and agency partnerships, Link2Health Solutions provides high-quality, scalable programs that reach over 500,000 people nationally every year. www.link2healthsolutions.org

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