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Two key individuals Join Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention, Inc. Board

Orlando, Fl. – The Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention, Inc. recently added two new members to its Board of Directors. These two new board members will increase the total number of board members from eight to a total of ten. The CMWP board unanimously approved Judith Birckhead, corporate liaison officer of Rosen hotels and resorts, board member of NAACP Corporate board, Shepard’s Hope Board member and Leadership 1000 Board member to its board membership. The other person that was approved by CMWP Board is Andrea A. Martin, retired public health administrator, board member of the Metropolitan Urban League, Healthy Start Coalition of Orange County, Hispanic Health Initiatives and Central Florida Partnership on Health Disparities (CFPHD). Gabriela Ramirez, board president and epidemiologist at Nemours, said that “these two additions to the board could not have happen at a better time, as we are in the process of implementing many of our fund raising ideas from our Strategic Plan and they certainly have the experience and knowledge to help the agency accomplish its objectives”.

Because of the fact that more and more people have been accessing the services at CMWP, the board members and the executive director recognized that a formal fund raising plan should be in place to help augment the funding received from local, county and state organizations. Dr. Francois, executive director of CMWP said that “what we would like to see happen is that whenever anyone comes to CMWP, they will not be turned away. The implementation of a formal fund raising plan and the addition of Judith Birckhead and Andrea Martin to our board will help us raise the additional funds to ensure that everyone who enters through the doors of CMWP is served”. During 2007, CMWP has serviced more than 5,000 individuals through all of the various programs and the number of individuals seeking services, such as peer mentoring, health advocacy and life-style changes from CMWP, has also increased over the same period. Long-time board member, Karen Wint, said that “CMWP has provided such excellent services to the community over the years that the word out mouth publicity has created a demand that is greater than our ability to provide these service. It has also forced us to look at additional funding sources to service everyone who comes through our door, so the addition of Judith and Andrea will help the board provide these additional services to our community”

The Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention is a 501 (c) 3 not-for-profit organization with the mission to enhance the quality of life for diverse and ethnic populations through the provision of health promotion services in Central Florida. CMWP is an established non-clinical setting, health education and outreach agency in Orlando Florida. The organization has successfully partnered with community and social agencies to effectively address the health education needs of Orange County’s minority communities. For more information about the Center for Multicultural Wellness and Prevention, please visit our website at www.cmwp.org.

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