McFarland Teams with NASMHPD to Support Suicide Prevention
December 10, 2008

McFarland & Associates, Inc. is pleased to announce our recent bid win on a SAMHSA-sponsored suicide prevention initiative alongside the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD) effective October 1, 2008. We will be working closely to conduct research on best practices that result in reduced suicide attempts across the nation. Generally, people do not acknowledge the correlation between suicide and mental illnesses such as bipolar disorder and postpartum depression, which can lead to suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Many people fail to acknowledge depression and other indicators of suicide until the worst has occurred. Suicide prevention is necessary to counter the stigma that can sometimes exist when dealing with the issue of suicide.

To better understand the complexities of suicide, at-risk target groups have been identified for specific focus, such include youth (15-24), veterans (18+), middle-ages (25-65) and seniors (65+). In assisting NASMHPD with the creation of a Suicide Prevention Assessment and Resources Kit (SPARK), McFarland will be responsible for creating a comprehensive Focus Group Protocol which will be used to ensure that focus group participants are accurately and appropriately evaluated. Following, McFarland will conduct the focus groups which will include stakeholders as well as professionals dealing with service-targeted populations (i.e, schools, assisted living facilities).

By using our research capabilities on this task, our staff is finding better ways to support those most at risk of suicide. Ideally, by honing the focus groups so that they best represent target populations, we are also able to better anticipate the needs of each set of individuals potentially affected by suicide. McFarland values this opportunity and hopes that our contribution might unearth answers for some of the questions related to this issue.

McFARLAND
&
ASSOCIATES, INC.

8601 GEORGIA AVENUE, SUITE 601
SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND 20910
(301) 589-0780
FAX (301) 589-2567

THE PARK CIRCLE BUSINESS CENTER
2901 DRUID PARK DRIVE
BALTIMORE, MARYLAND 21215
(410) 225-3396