Media Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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National Council for Behavioral Health Recognizes the LaGrange Police Department for Excellence in Behavioral Health

LaGrange, Ga. April 1, 2019 – The LaGrange Police Department and LPD Chief Lou Dekmar have been named the recipients of the National Council for Behavioral Health’s 2019 Visionary Award.

The National Council for Behavior Health chooses its visionary leadership award winners from hundreds of nominations representing the most inspiring leaders in the county. The award celebrates those
who improve the lives of individuals experiencing mental illness and
who teach us all how we can reach out and do our part.

“I’m very proud that the basis of this initiative was what we’ve done
here in LaGrange,” said Chief Dekmar. “We’ve been working with the
faith community and nonprofits and our officers have been stepping up
and engaging in CIT training in a way that makes a world of difference.
That local success led to this international initiative.”

The award was presented on March 26th in Nashville, Tennessee during
the Awards of Excellence Celebration in conjunction with the National
Council Conference – NatCon19.

The National Council for Behavioral Health’s Awards of Excellence
recognize and honor individuals and organizations in behavioral health
care for their ingenuity, hard work and dedication to improving the
lives of Americans living with mental illnesses and addictions.

"Chief Lou Dekmar is the first ever winner of this award from a police
agency. His leadership of the International Association of Chiefs of
Police and dedication to the One Mind Pledge - a program to equip tens
of thousands of police officers nationwide with the tools necessary to
respond safety and effectively - was an easy choice for the selection
committee,” said National Council for Behavioral Health Public
Education Director Bryan Gibb. “Personally, I am proud to work with
the Chief in spreading the Mental Health First Aid training and expect his impact to continue as he remains dedicated to this important work.”

Hailed as the nation’s premier behavioral health conference, NatCon19 convened with more than 5,000 behavioral health professionals to discuss solutions and outcomes that transform health care.

About National Council for Behavioral Health

The National Council for Behavioral Health is the unifying voice of America’s health care organizations that deliver mental health and addictions treatment and services. Together with our 2,900 member organizations serving over 10 million adults, children and families living with mental illnesses and addictions, the National Council is committed to all Americans having access to comprehensive, high-quality care that affords every opportunity for recovery. The National Council introduced Mental Health First Aid USA and more than 1.5 million Americans have been trained.

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