

January 28, 2008

*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE FROM OREGON PARTNERSHIP*****

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OREGON PARTNERSHIP PRESIDENT/CEO JUDY CUSHING APPOINTED TO NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON SUBSTANCE ABUSE

(Portland, Oregon) Judy Cushing, one of Oregon's most effective advocates in the field of substance abuse prevention, has been appointed to serve on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Advisory Council.

The request for Cushing to serve a three-year term came from Michael O. Leavitt, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.

The Council advises, consults with and makes recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

"We are honored to have Judy serve on our Advisory Council," said SAMHSA Administrator, Terry Cline, Ph.D. "Her innovative leadership and extensive experience will provide us with a very valuable perspective on what SAMHSA can do to strengthen prevention, treatment and recovery services throughout the country."

For the past 13 years, Cushing has led Oregon Partnership, a statewide private non-profit organization dedicated to substance abuse prevention, education and treatment referral services. OP also operates the statewide suicide prevention line and three crisis lines in addition to conducting classroom and parents education to prevent drug abuse and underage drinking.

In addition to managing a 16-member staff, Cushing's responsibilities include leadership development and public policy advocacy at the state and national levels.

"I'm looking forward to working with SAMHSA and take part in their good work in attacking substance abuse," said Cushing.

Cushing was a member of the National Research Council Institute of Medicine's Committee that produced the landmark report, "Reducing Underage Drinking – A Collective Responsibility.

In 2003, she was appointed by President Bush to serve on the President's Advisory Commission on Drug-Free Communities.

Cushing will serve with 11 other members, most of whom are experts in the fields of substance abuse and mental health.

About Oregon Partnership:

Oregon Partnership is a statewide nonprofit that has worked to promote healthy kids and communities for well over a decade by raising awareness about drug and alcohol issues, providing prevention education in classrooms, and 24-hour crisis lines for people needing help. To learn more, visit www.orpartnership.org.