

For Immediate Release

Contact: Judi Watters  
Dir of Development & Public Relations  
(207) 626-3448 x 179 (207) 319-5393  
[jwatters@crisisandcounseling.org](mailto:jwatters@crisisandcounseling.org)

## **Crisis & Counseling Centers' 2008 Annual Meeting & Dinner Celebrates Work in Community**

**AUGUSTA, Maine** –More than 120 community members, agency and state representatives and business leaders attended the springtime Annual Meeting and Dinner of Crisis & Counseling Centers. The event, held at the Senator Inn, was sponsored by 13 local businesses.

During the evening, C&C Board President, David Warren, and various staff members honored several individuals and another community nonprofit. Those honored included **Sheriff Randall Liberty** of the Kennebec County Sheriff's Office and **Officer Jay Languet** of the Augusta Police Department.



Kennebec County Sheriff Randall Liberty (center) receiving C&C's "Public Safety Award" from Board President David Warren (with C&C's Dir. of Correctional & Jail Diversion Services, Bob Kingman, in background).

The two individuals were presented with "The "Public Safety Appreciation Award" for their "skill and sensitivity as a first responder in dealing with individuals who are in crisis."



Augusta Police Officer Jay Languet, with wife Amy Languet, listening to C&C's Tara Karczewski express her appreciation for his collaborative work.

Maine PreTrial Services was also recognized, as the "Agency of the Year," for its "cooperative, collaborative work with C&C," on behalf of the clients served by both agencies.

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Elizabeth Simoni of Maine PreTrial Services, accepts the “Agency of the Year” award, and acknowledges the work of all Maine PreTrial Services staff.

Maine Pretrial Services, Inc. (MPS) is a nonprofit agency that is dedicated to providing the least restrictive bail alternative in the form of pretrial community supervision and post conviction diversion for those who either cannot post bail by themselves or with the aid of family, or who post bail but need additional supervision in the eyes of the court. MPS serves the counties of Androscoggin, Aroostook, Cumberland, Kennebec, Knox, Oxford, Washington, and York. MPS is an active and key participant in the State’s first Co-Occurring Disorders Court (CODC), established in Kennebec County in 2005 by the Superior Court and Superior Court Justice Nancy Mills, District Attorney Everett Fowle, NAMI Maine, Maine PreTrial Services and Crisis & Counseling Centers, the mental health and substance abuse provider for this court. The Co-Occurring Disorders Court provides supervised treatment for individuals who have been screened and found to be better served through the CODC than through incarceration.

Two additional awards presented at the annual dinner were the “Peer Recognition Award” in honor of a C&C employee. IT Manager Matthew Melanson received the honor, for his “skill, knowledge and positive relationships.” Also awarded was the G.E.A.R. Parent Network’s “Charlene Milliken Resiliency Rose” award, for outstanding commitment to the emotional well-being of children. The rose was presented to Brian and Shanna Spaulding of Belfast.

Concluding the evening was a keynote address by Judy Regina-Whiteley, a resident of Central Maine, who works with government bodies and nonprofit agencies throughout the county to develop solutions for community mental health and correctional systems.

A jazz group, the Bel Isle Trial, provided a lively backdrop to the evening.

The sponsors who made the event possible are: Musical Entertainment Sponsor, TD Banknorth; VIP Sponsors the Buckley Group, HRH of Northern New England, Kozak & Gayer, P.A., and the Wolfington Group; and Host Sponsors Farmington-Skowhegan Federal Credit Union; G&E Roofing and the China Dine-ah; Gibson LeClair & Martin, L.L.C.; Moody & Company Office Supplies & Furniture; KVCAP; Motivational Services (MOCO); Spring Harbor Hospital; and Youth & Family Services.

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Members of the law firm and V.I.P. sponsor Kozak & Gayer: (L to R) Ben Townsend, Stacey Mondschein, Susan Tedrick & Allana Barrington.

**About Crisis & Counseling Centers:**

Incorporated in 1970, Crisis & Counseling Centers, Inc. is the sole provider of 24-hour crisis services to residents of Kennebec and Somerset counties. In addition, C&C offers outpatient treatment of substance abuse, mental health and co-occurring disorders, psychiatric consultation and medication management in its Augusta office and provides all of these same services, as well as medical services, on-site at the Kennebec County Correctional Facility (Augusta) and the Two Bridges Regional Jail (Wiscasset). C&C's statewide GEAR Parent Network provides training, support and advocacy by and for parents of children with behavioral health needs. The agency's programs are supported by funding from the Maine Department of Health and Human Services, the Maine Health Access Foundation, the United Way of Kennebec Valley, the United Way of Mid-Maine, and other private grants and individual donations.

For more information on Crisis & Counseling Centers visit [www.crisisandcounseling.org](http://www.crisisandcounseling.org).

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