

NEWS RELEASE

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Humana hosts World Class Mental Health Commissioning conference

LONDON, UK – October 22 2009 – Following the success of its 2008 Conference, Humana Europe hosted its second World Class Mental Health Commissioning Conference in collaboration with The National Survivor User Network (NSUN), the Research and Development in Mental Health organisation (RDMH) and the Department of Health National Mental Health Development Unit.

American comedian and Patron of the Depression Alliance, Ruby Wax who chaired the event promised to make the audience “laugh and cry about mental illness” by touching upon some of her own personal experiences of mental health and discussing some of the issues at the heart of implementing government policy in mental health including the personalisation of services, the prevention of recurring ill health and social inclusion.

Recent statistics by the World Health Organisation show that 1 in 4 people will suffer from mental health disorders at some point throughout their life. This is costing the NHS approximately £5.53 billion (or 12 per cent of NHS spend) today.

The Conference looked at how World Class Commissioners can drive up quality and value in mental health care through more personalised services tailored to the individual’s needs, freeing

up NHS resources and helping people to recover fully in the long term.

When talking about the Conference, Head of Mental Health development at Humana Europe, Dr Helen Glenister said “Severe mental illness is now recognised as one of the most complex long-term conditions today. The Conference debate was all about the difference World Class Commissioning can make to the quality of mental health services people receive and the value these services can offer.”

There was also discussion around the Government’s new National Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme and how it might influence and shape the development of mental health services in primary care.

END

Notes to editors:

1. **About the Mental Health Commissioning Conference:** The Conference took place on Monday 19th October at the Royal Society of Medicine.
 - Keynote Speakers at the event include:
 - Ruby Wax, Patron of the Depression Alliance
 - Gerald Malone, Non Executive Chairman, Ultrasis and previous Minister for Health;
 - Anne Beales MBE, Director, Service User Involvement Together (NSUN);
 - Gary Belfield, Director of Commissioning, Department of Health
 - Dr Sian Rees, Senior Policy Advisor, Mental Health Division, Department of Health;
 - Kieron Murphy, National Programme Director of the World Class Commissioning, Mental Health Commissioning Programme; and
 - Vidhya Alakeson, Mental Health Lead, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, U.S Department of Health and Human Services

For more information please visit:
<http://www.healthcareevents.co.uk/conf/booking.php?action=home&id=23>

2. **About Humana:** Humana Europe delivers expert commissioning services and support to the NHS in England. We are recognised as leaders in designing, developing and implementing innovative programmes, tools and solutions to support Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) to commission care in line with the health needs of their local populations. For more information please visit: www.humana.co.uk
3. **The National Survivor User Network (NSUN):** NSUN is a management committee selected by an independent panel of service users and survivors. The committee has been set up to create a network that engages and supports

the wide diversity of mental health service users and survivors across England in order to strengthen the user voice. For more information please visit www.nsun.org.uk

4. **The Research and Development in Mental Health organisation (RDMH):** RDMH is a service and workforce development organisation that specialises in all aspects of mental health and related areas, particularly learning disability and integrated care. RDMH was established in 2006 to develop further the previous service, workforce and organisational development functions of the Sainsbury Centre for Mental Health (SCMH). The objectives of RDMH are to build on national policy across the UK and realise a wider transformation of mental health support. For more information please visit www.rdmh.org.uk