



## NEWS RELEASE

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### Yavapai County Sheriff nationally recognized for jail's Restoration to Competency program

Camp Verde, Ariz. (June 14, 2011) – Wexford Health Sources and Yavapai County are pleased to announce that the National Association of Counties (NACo) has selected Sheriff Steve Waugh as a 2011 recipient of its national Courthouse award. The purpose of the award is to profile elected county officials who have improved the lives of citizens through outstanding governance and strong leadership.

Only three Courthouse award winners are selected each year, representing superior leadership and programming from urban, suburban, and rural counties. A panel of expert judges selected Sheriff Waugh as the winner in the suburban county category. The Sheriff will receive his award at a special ceremony at NACo's annual conference in Portland, Oregon in July. In addition to his award, Sheriff Waugh will also receive a \$5,000 college scholarship to present to a graduating Yavapai County high school senior.

Sheriff Waugh was selected for spearheading the creation and implementation of the county's Restoration to Competency (RTC) Program. A unique partnership between Yavapai County and Wexford Health, the program provides behavioral health services to Jail detainees who do not meet the court's competency requirements and are therefore unable to stand trial. The RTC program enables detainees to understand court proceedings and participate in their own defense.

In 2009, when Arizona's fiscal situation deteriorated and the state shifted responsibility for RTC program costs to each county, Sheriff Waugh recruited key individuals to launch a local RTC program. At that time, Yavapai County was paying a state-operated hospital more than \$600 per day for RTC inmates, for a projected annual expenditure of more than \$2 million.

Based on the County's successful relationship with Wexford Health to provide inmate health services, the Sheriff encouraged the expansion of the company's services to include the RTC program. Under Sheriff Waugh's authority, Wexford Health and county officials created a local RTC program, saving hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual program costs while maintaining quality of patient care. Yavapai has also opened up its cost-saving RTC program to neighboring Arizona counties. At this time, more than half of the counties in the state have signed agreements to participate in the program.

"I cannot express how grateful I am for this prestigious award from the National Association of Counties," said Sheriff Waugh. "In 2009, I didn't think twice about offering our jail facility and staff resources to this program. With Wexford Health, we have been able to diminish the impact of the RTC cost shift for our county and also help other local counties."

"It was a pleasure working with Sheriff Waugh and other Yavapai County leaders on expanding our health care services to include the RTC program. Between Commander John Russell from the Sheriff's Office, Jail Health Services Administrator Becky Payne, and County attorneys Jack Fields and Dave Hunt, we designed a true win-win program for the County," said Darius Holmes, Wexford Health Senior VP of Strategic Development. "Not only are county taxpayers saving a lot of money, but mentally incompetent detainees do not have to wait as long to stand trial. And we're pleased that the program continues to expand into surrounding counties, saving them money, too."

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*Wexford Health Sources, one of the nation's largest correctional health care companies, provides medical, mental health, pharmacy, rehabilitation, utilization management, claims processing, and technology services to state, regional, and local clients across the country. The Pittsburgh-based company helps governments, correctional facilities, and other institutions control inmate health care costs while maintaining quality of care.*