

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 4, 2015

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TOM LUCE, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE MEADOWS MENTAL HEALTH POLICY INSTITUTE, RECEIVES THE MARY ELIZABETH HOLDSWORTH BUTT AWARD FOR MENTAL HEALTH

AUSTIN, Texas (Monday, May 4, 2015) — Mental Health America of Texas will present the Mary Elizabeth Holdsworth Butt Award for Mental Health to Tom Luce, President and CEO of the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute, Monday, May 4, at the Mental Health America of Texas Honoring Dinner “*An Evening of Hope.*” The event is being hosted at the Four Seasons Hotel Austin from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Like the late Mary Elizabeth Holdsworth Butt, Tom Luce is a visionary leader and long serving advocate for the health and wellbeing of all Texans. He has engaged in public service for more than 30 years and has been instrumental in education and mental health policy reform.

“Mental Health America of Texas is honored to recognize Tom Luce for his commitment to Texas and to mental health as part of the overall health of each individual in our state,” said Lynn Lasky Clark, President and CEO of Mental Health America of Texas. “He has a long history of bringing about positive change for Texans including improving policies impacting the lives of children, youth and adults.”

Luce was a founding partner of Hughes & Luce, LLP, a prominent Texas law firm. He has been appointed to major posts by Texas Governors five times, including chief justice pro tempore of the Texas Supreme Court. He served as U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education for Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development during the George W. Bush administration and was appointed by the U.S. House of Representatives Majority Leader as a member of the Library of Congress board. Luce has also been appointed by the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives to the Texas Sunset Advisory Commission.

Mary Elizabeth Holdsworth Butt, the daughter of an English immigrant who settled on the Texas frontier, was a pioneer in her own right, devoting her life to improving the care of people with mental illness while raising a family and building the successful Texas grocery business HEB. Butt spent 26 years on the governing board of Texas State Hospitals and Special Schools, which

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became the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation in 1965, pushing for better treatment of people with mental illness, and is now part of the Texas Department of State Health Services.

During her time on the board, treatment of people with mental illness underwent many changes in Texas. In 1962, Congress set aside grants to create comprehensive community-based mental health treatment centers and Texas established treatment centers in 1965. The creation of community centers allowed more Texans to receive treatment in communities instead of being institutionalized in state hospitals. In 1980, federal block grants allowed Texas to place a high priority on providing mental health services to severely and chronically ill people in community programs.

“Mrs. Butt was truly a champion for people with mental illnesses,” said Clark. “Her many years of tireless work to improve the care and treatment of Texans living with mental illnesses continues to positively impact people today.”

Established in 1935, Mental Health America of Texas is dedicated to transforming systems that promote mental health, prevent mental disorders and substance abuse, and achieve recovery from mental illnesses and addictions through education, advocacy and services.

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For more information on Mental Health America of Texas go to www.MHATexas.org