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*News Release*

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## **Green Ridge Youth Center Recognized as One of the Best Juvenile Facilities in the Nation**

Baltimore, MD (January 8, 2010) – Green Ridge Youth Center ("Green Ridge") has earned 4 out of 4 stars for its exemplary care and treatment of youth. This rating level was awarded as a result of a rigorous review of safety, treatment and programming standards by Performance-based Standards for Youth Correction and Detention Facilities ("PbS"), an independent national organization that analyzes the quality of care at juvenile facilities across the nation. Green Ridge is one of only 14 juvenile facilities nationwide to receive a 4-star level ranking out of the 198 juvenile facilities reviewed by PbS.

Green Ridge is a treatment facility operated by Maryland's Department of Juvenile Services ("DJS"). The facility is located in Alleghany County and specializes in the treatment of youth with substance abuse issues. On average, the facility treats 40 male youth at any given time.

David Crowley, a PbS consultant/coach with many years experience in juvenile correctional work, assigned to review and assess juvenile facilities in several states, including Maryland, lauded Green Ridge's 4-star level rating. "It is difficult to achieve and very rare," he said. Crowley remarked, "In my years of reviewing many juvenile facilities, Green Ridge represents a model program on a national level. This achievement can be attributed to the rigorous PbS review process, the leadership at Green Ridge and the strong support from the DJS western region and central offices."

PbS was launched as an initiative of the U.S. Department of Justice in 1995 to improve the conditions of juvenile facilities nationwide. PbS gathers data through exhaustive youth and staff surveys that focus on quality of care, safety and programming. Juvenile facilities are required to maintain accurate data and report that data online to PbS for review. In the final step of the process, on-site visits are conducted by PbS consultants to verify data and the conditions of a juvenile facility. In order for a facility to receive the highest rating of 4 stars, a facility must meet or exceed 85% compliance in both critical outcomes such as safety, order, health and security and other outcomes such as programming and reintegration.

"Green Ridge is the first juvenile facility in Maryland to be rated as a 4-star facility by PbS," said Secretary Donald W. DeVore. "With this 4-star rating, Green Ridge is among the elite juvenile facilities in the nation," he said. Secretary DeVore concluded: "This wonderful achievement is a reflection of the hard-work and dedication of the Green Ridge staff who are deeply committed in their treatment and support of the youth in their care."

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