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REGIONAL NONPROFIT DRUG TREATMENT CENTER TO BEGIN LOOKING FOR PROSPECTIVE LOCATIONS WITH PLANS TO OPEN A 180 BED FACILITY IN JACKSON

***City and State Officials Say the Drug Treatment Center will provide needed
Recovery Services for People with Chronic Addictions***

(Jackson, Mississippi) The Cenikor Foundation, a nonprofit residential substance abuse treatment program, has identified commercial properties to open a 180 bed facility in the Jackson the fall of 2008. The Board of Directors of the Cenikor Foundation voted to move forward with opening a facility after meeting with city and state officials.

"We have a serious problem in Jackson and we need all the help we can get," said Mayor Frank Melton. "This is the first group that has come to us with an excellent track record in Texas and Louisiana. They are very impressive. This is not a 30 day in and back out on the street program. This program has longevity to it."

The organization operates a comprehensive 18 to 24 month recovery program that focuses on treating chronic alcohol and drug addiction. Cenikor's treatment program emphasizes helping residents identify the root cause of their substance abuse and implements disciplined strategies designed to help them become substance free. "For over the past 40 years, the Cenikor Foundation has helped thousands of people," said Bill Bailey, president of the Cenikor Foundation. "The needs in Jackson and the entire state of Mississippi are great and we are delighted to have an opportunity to become part of the community and help people break the cycle of years of substance abuse." Bailey adds Cenikor operates its programs with little cost to taxpayers.

The increasing numbers of people abusing drugs have far reaching effects, especially in the judicial system. As county and state prisons become overcrowded, the Cenikor Foundation works closely with drug courts to identify non-violent drug offenders who qualify for treatment as an alternative to incarceration.

More

Cenikor comes to Jackson add 1

“In Mississippi, it costs \$17,000 a year to keep a person incarcerated,” said Emmitt Sparkman, deputy commissioner of the Mississippi Department of Community Corrections. “Every offender that we can keep from returning to prison is a \$17,000 savings for taxpayers and you convert that person into a good citizen and a taxpayer.”

More than 500 residents are receiving services at the Cenikor Foundation’s three locations in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Fort Worth, Texas and Houston, Texas, which is also the location of the corporate office.

For more information about the Cenikor Foundation, log on to www.cenikor.org.

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