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For Immediate Release

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## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference on Homelessness - October 18 & 19

**Keynote Speakers include nationally recognized homelessness expert Dr. Jim O'Connell and Deputy Director Anthony Love of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness. First Annual Awards Reception to be held on Monday, 10/18.**

(Phoenix, AZ) – The Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness will host the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Statewide Conference on Homelessness on Monday, October 18 and Tuesday, October 19 at the Black Canyon Conference Center in Phoenix, AZ. The Conference will feature Keynote Addresses by Dr. Jim O'Connell, a nationally recognized expert on homelessness, and Anthony Love, Deputy Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homeless. The Conference will host its first annual Awards Reception on Monday, October 18 at 5 pm to recognize those Arizonans who are leading the fight to end homelessness in the state.

Dr. Jim O'Connell headlines Monday's Keynote Presentation. Dr. Jim O'Connell is nationally recognized as one of the preeminent experts on homelessness and healthcare, founder of the Boston Health Care for the Homeless (BHCHP), and creator of the Vulnerability Index that has been successfully used by Project H3 in the Phoenix Metro Area to identify and prioritize the chronically homeless population for housing according to their health conditions. Dr. O'Connell helped found BHCHP in 1985 after completing his residency at Massachusetts General Hospital. Dr. O'Connell assists BHCHP's Board of Directors in setting the strategic direction for the program and he advocates for public policies and programs to address the needs of homeless people.

Anthony Love, Deputy Director of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH), headlines Tuesday's Keynote Presentation. The USICH is an independent federal agency that works with the 19 federal agencies that make up the Council to prevent and end homelessness. Anthony is focused on several initiatives for the Council, including creating a national technical assistance strategy, increasing and enhancing the Council's national partnerships and activating all 10 Regional Interagency Councils on Homelessness and all 50 State Interagency Councils on Homelessness. Anthony has a history of creating capacity at organizations and generating multi-sector partnerships that result in reducing homelessness.

The First Annual Awards reception will be held on Monday, October 18 after the first day of the conference at 5 pm and will include the following awards: Lifetime Achievement Award, Business Partnership, Volunteers of the Year, Kevin Collins Award, Outstanding Achievement in Overcoming Homelessness, Advocate of the Year, Policy Maker of the Year, and the Five Star Leader.

**Conference Schedule:**

Monday, October 18, 2010	12:00-1:30pm	Keynote Presenter Dr. Jim O'Connell
Monday, October 18, 2010	5:00pm	Awards Reception
Tuesday, October 19, 2010	12:00-1:30pm	Keynote Presenter Deputy Director Anthony Love

Black Canyon Conference Center - 9440 N. 25th Avenue, Phoenix, Arizona 85021

For more information about the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Arizona Statewide Conference on Homelessness or the Arizona Coalition to End Homelessness please visit [www.azceh.org](http://www.azceh.org) -30-