



*Media Release*  
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## **National Council for Behavioral Health Recognizes the LaGrange Police Department for Excellence in Behavioral Health**

***LaGrange, Ga. April 1, 2019*** – The LaGrange Police Department and LPD Chief Lou Dekmar have been named the recipients of the National Council for Behavioral Health’s 2019 Visionary Award.



Chief Dekmar accepting the 2019 Visionary Award

The National Council for Behavior Health chooses its visionary leadership award winners from hundreds of nominations representing the most inspiring leaders in the county. The award celebrates those

who improve the lives of individuals experiencing mental illness and who teach us all how we can reach out and do our part.

“I’m very proud that the basis of this initiative was what we’ve done here in LaGrange,” said Chief Dekmar. “We’ve been working with the faith community and nonprofits and our officers have been stepping up and engaging in CIT training in a way that makes a world of difference. That local success led to this international initiative.”

The award was presented on March 26<sup>th</sup> in Nashville, Tennessee during the Awards of Excellence Celebration in conjunction with the National Council Conference – NatCon19.



Chief Dekmar accepting the 2019 Visionary Award

The National Council for Behavioral Health’s Awards of Excellence recognize and honor individuals and organizations in behavioral health care for their ingenuity, hard work and dedication to improving the lives of Americans living with mental illnesses and addictions.

"Chief Lou Dekmar is the first ever winner of this award from a police agency. His leadership of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and dedication to the One Mind Pledge - a program to equip tens of thousands of police officers nationwide with the tools necessary to respond safely and effectively - was an easy choice for the selection committee," said National Council for Behavioral Health Public Education Director Bryan Gibb. "Personally, I am proud to work with

the Chief in spreading the Mental Health First Aid training and expect his impact to continue as he remains dedicated to this important work.”

Hailed as the nation’s premier behavioral health conference, NatCon19 convened with more than 5,000 behavioral health professionals to discuss solutions and outcomes that transform health care.

### **About National Council for Behavioral Health**

The [National Council for Behavioral Health](#) is the unifying voice of America’s health care organizations that deliver mental health and addictions treatment and services. Together with our 2,900 member organizations serving over 10 million adults, children and families living with mental illnesses and addictions, the National Council is committed to all Americans having access to comprehensive, high-quality care that affords every opportunity for recovery. The National Council introduced [Mental Health First Aid USA](#) and more than 1.5 million Americans have been trained.

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