

Staying in Touch

March 2008

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Watch the February 20th DMH Performance Oversight Hearing on-line at www.dc.gov. Go to the Office of Cable Television and On Demand Video.

Message from the Director



Dear DMH Employee,

At the recent staff meeting at the Authority, I was pleased to meet a number of new employees at the Department who work in all areas—including the school based mental health program, auditing and

compliance, contracting and procurement, and programs and policy. New faces are appearing on the campus of Saint Elizabeths and DC CSA as well. We want to keep attracting top quality people who bring a fresh perspective to the challenges we face and new energy to deliver quality services.

I also am encouraged by our ability to attract young people who bring a needed link to the next generation of leaders in the mental health field.

We are actively recruiting to fill critical positions at the Hospital and in other program areas. I encourage you to talk about hiring opportunities to your friends, professional colleagues and others. You can review a list of vacancies on our website, www.dmh.dc.gov.

As we expand our mental health services, improve our internal operations and have moved to pay parity with the rest of the government, DMH is a wonderful place to learn and do good work.

Please feel free to email me directly with issues of concern to you or your ideas about ways to make the Department better at steve.baron@dc.gov.

Steve

DMH Training Institute Issues Spring 2008 Calendar

The DMH Training Institute has scheduled classes for this spring and the new Spring 2008 Calendar was emailed to all DMH employees.

The recent appointment of **Erika Van Buren, Ph.D.** as the new director of Director of Organizational Development is bringing new energy to the DMH Training Institute. **Erika** promises a new and diverse array of learning opportunities for DMH staff.

In the email sending out the Spring Calendar, **Erika** wrote, "You can expect a number of exciting additions and changes to unfold throughout the Spring. This includes the creation of training tracks, innovative learning modalities for on-going training and technical support, and the introduction of a new learning management system for registration and tracking of workforce development activities."

You can now register for Training Institute events on-line registration process. [Click here](#) to access the registration page. [If this link does not work, you can paste the following html address into your web browser:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=2f0qM61x2bM0Mo8zbGM_2fpTng_3d_3d].

The Spring 2008 calendar will be updated daily as additional events become available

Congratulations, Dr. Mohyuddin!

Congratulations to **Dr. Farooq Mohyuddin** on his selection as a recipient of the 16th Annual Nancy C. A. Roeske, MD, Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Medical Student Education, by the Committee on Medical Student Education, American Psychiatric Association.

Dr Mohyuddin is the Director of the Saint Elizabeths Hospital Residency Program. This certificate recognizes his outstanding and sustaining contributions as a faculty member of the Hospital.

The certificate will be awarded at the 2008 American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting in May in Washington, D.C. during the "Luncheon for Residents, Medical Students, and Educators". Residents and faculty members attending the annual meeting are invited to attend.

One Fund Drive Ends March 31: Pledge Now Before It's Too Late!

You still have time to join your co-workers who have already signed up to contribute to One Fund. As of now, Saint Elizabeths Hospital employees are leading the Department by far with the number of givers while the Authority has a slight edge on Fair Share Givers.

Entity	No. of Employees	Fair Share Givers	Total Amount Contributed
DS CSA	4	2	\$ 2,570.00
Saint Elizabeths	49	4	\$19,905.92
Mental Health Authority	17	5	\$ 9,628.75

Total: \$32,104.67

Report prepared by **JoAnn Davis**, DMH One Fund Campaign Coordinator.

Employee Spotlight: Michael Neff

If you call **Michael Neff** to solve an operations problem, you shouldn't have a problem communicating—you can talk to him in seven different languages...Russian, Polish, Ukrainian, German, Dutch, Spanish, or English. He has a passion for languages and his first college degree is a BA in Russian and East European Studies with an emphasis on Russian language and Russian/East European cultures.

Michael comes to the newly created position of Chief Administrative Officer with years of management experience in the health care industry. He was Associate Vice President for Healthcare Management Operations at AMERGROUPE Corp. where he managed the day to day operations, and was responsible for authorization/claims issues remediation, Sarbanes-Oxley Act compliance, and responses to Internal Audit and new market implementation. He also designed operational workflows and created system specifications to support the functioning of the medical management and behavioral health operations.

Before that, he was Implementation Director at ValueOptions, a behavioral health organization which manages mental health and substance abuse services for over 24 million people.

Michael has a Master of Higher Education Administration from the University of Michigan and a Master of Social Work from Norfolk State University. He is a former member of the Board of Hillcrest Childrens Center. He loves to cook, especially dishes from other countries. His current favorite is Northern African...but he also likes Indian/Southern Asian, French and Spanish foods. **Здравствуйте, Michael!**



News from Human Resources

March 7 Deadline to Apply for Retirement Incentive Program. The deadline for submitting an application to participate in the retirement incentive program is fast approaching. Under the program, an eligible employee who chooses to retire could receive up to a \$25,000.00 incentive award.

No positions are excluded from the program. However, approval will be made case by case based on the needs of DMH and the availability of funding. An employee selected to participate in the program will be notified no later than March 31 and must leave the government no later than September 27, 2008.

Keep in mind that an employee who accepts a retirement incentive is not eligible for reemployment with the District government for five years unless he or she repays the Retirement Award—repayment could be waived by the agency under special circumstances. For more information or an application, you can contact the Office of Human Resources on (202) 673.4411, except employees at Saint Elizabeths should contact its HR division on 645.6917.

Saint Elizabeths Awarded \$100,000 for artwork in the new hospital

As the new hospital goes up, careful planning is taking place to shape the inside of the building as well. Hospital CEO **Patrick Canavan** envisions a building based on the recovery model where activities take place that in some ways mirror what goes on outside the hospital, and a building that provides a feeling of respect and dignity to the people who live there. To support these goals, the Hospital sought support from the Commission on Arts and Humanities to purchase new artwork, and DMH recently was awarded a \$100,000 grant.

The artwork will be placed primarily in public spaces like the lobby and corridors according to **Richard Warsh**, DMH Facilities Planning Director and Project Manager. "We want the new hospital to be welcoming to patients, their families, and staff," he said.

The new artwork will complement the hospital's therapeutic design that includes bright and airy living and treatment areas, green spaces off each unit, and enclosed courtyards.

With construction nearly 43% complete, the footprint of the new 450,000-square foot hospital is clearly visible. Most of the masonry is done and major roof work is about to begin. Patients are expected to move into the new hospital in late 2009.

Upcoming Events

Please let me know about your upcoming event at phyllis.jones@dc.gov

Children/Youth Community Service Reviews	March 3 – 14
Committee on Health Public Hearing on Veterans Affairs	March 12
Court Monitor Visit	March 13-14 and March 26-27
Adult Community Service Reviews	June 2 – 13