

Staying in Touch

August 2007

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Pay Raises for Non-Union Employees!

Long overdue pay increases for non-union employees are on the way and on a fast track! Non-union employees will receive at least a 3% increase retroactive to February 18. The Human Resources office projects that your new base salary will be reflected in your pay check on August 17. And, a lump sum payment retroactive to February 18th will follow shortly afterwards.

A letter from HR that explains your new salary, grade and step, and the amount of your retroactive payment will be sent to you in the next few weeks.

On October 1, non-union employees will receive another increase along with the rest of the government—now projected at 3.25%. While the raises are not as much as we had hoped because of budget constraints, they enable us to begin to address pay inequities among employees.

If you have any questions about your new salary, please contact Human Resources, and please acknowledge Frankie Wheeler, Director of Human Resources, and her staff for their hard work.

Message from the Director

Dear DMH Employee,

This is the first issue of a regular newsletter for DMH employees. This newsletter gives me another vehicle to communicate directly with you about our goals and activities, and to keep you informed about the status of new initiatives and projects. In coming issues, you will hear about our progress with reestablishing mobile crisis services, relocating CPEP, building a new state of the art, environmentally responsible hospital and other matters of interest to you.

Let me emphasize that I want this to be two way communication. Please let me know what you would like to see in this newsletter so that it can be as informative and useful as possible. And, please let me know what you think about the articles. I appreciate and value feedback. You can email me at steve.baron@dc.gov.

Steve

*Non-Union Pay Raises
Coming Soon!
Retroactive to
February 18, 2007*

Fiscal Year 2008 Budget Highlights

DMH's budget of \$248,858,483 for Fiscal Year 2008 funds core services and allows us to expand services in critical areas. The budget, now undergoing Congressional review:

- Adds 1.2 million to increase observation beds at CPEP
- Earmarks \$300,000 to establish a peer-operated wellness center
- Targets \$5.5 million for housing support
- Adds \$1.5 million for support services for court-involved youth
- Expands the school based mental health program to two new schools
- Includes \$4 million to fund initiatives at Saint Elizabeths to meet national standard of care in compliance with the Department of Justice settlement agreement
- Funds non-union and union pay increases.
- Adds nearly \$3 million to mobile crisis services and residential crisis beds for youth

Special thanks to the following people who take the lead on budget formulation and management: Anthony Young, James Jackson, Joyce Jeter and Marcia Jones.

DC CSA Scores Big in Adult Community Services Reviews

In the most recent adult Community Service Review (CSR), the DC CSA scored the highest among providers. DC CSA has embraced the CSR model and has incorporated it into its internal training and care model. As a result, the DC CSA has been one of the CSAs that has shown the highest scores for adults and children/youth.

While DCCSA has consistently scored high on the annual review, this year DC CSA exceeded the 80% standard in several categories. Its overall practice performance jumped to 94% from 68% in 2006. In other performance indicators, including personal recovery goal, culturally appropriate practice, and living arrangements, DC CSA exceeded last year's goals. In engagement by staff and satisfaction with services, DC CSA scored 100%.

The Court Monitor wrote in his July report, "While recognizing that sample sizes are limited, this is nevertheless an impressive organizational accomplishment."

Congratulations to CEO Juanita Price, Carroll Parks, and the rest of the staff.

"This budget allows us to expand services in critical areas of need", Director Steve Baron.

Summer Sounds of Saint Elizabeths

Where can you hear good music for you and your family this summer... for free? Right on the campus of Saint Elizabeths Hospital. The "Summer Sounds of Saint Elizabeths: Celebrating 50 Years of Music Therapy" kicked off on June 28 and will continue through September.

Organized by Michael Fain from the Hospital's Rehabilitation Services and Sandy Hassan of the Authority, the concerts feature a diverse group of talented local musicians. (see the schedule below.)

Saint Elizabeths was a pioneer in music and dance therapy and helped launch a national movement using creative arts as a mechanism for healing and expression. More than 70 music therapists have been trained at Saint Elizabeths. The concerts are on the campus in the rear of the CT-3 Building near the Alabama Avenue Metro Station.

Summer Sounds of Saint Elizabeths Schedule:

Concert time: 7:00 p.m.

August 2	Cherise with Common Ground
*August 9	Bertell Knox Jazz Quartet
August 14	Immortal Soul
August 23	Umoja String Quartet
*August 28	Phase II
September 6	Signature Live!
September 13	Howard University Gospel Choir
*September 20 (1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.)	Touché Band and WPG Trio
September 25	(to be announced)

* An RSVP to Crystal Bass on 645-4767 is required to attend these concerts held at John Howard Pavilion. All other concerts will be held in the rear of CT-3 building near the Alabama Avenue Metro station. For more information, contact Matthew Brown 645-7756

The next quarterly meeting of the MHA staff will be Friday, August 3, 2007 from 11:00 p.m. to 12:00 noon in the 4th Floor Training Room. Please submit any agenda items to JoAnn Davis at joann.davis@dc.gov.

DMH In the News

DISTRICT BRIEFING

Wednesday, August 1, 2007; B04, *Washington Post*

HOMELESS SERVICES

Shelter Will Offer Mental Care

Mental health services will be offered to chronically homeless men starting this fall at the Franklin School Shelter in Northwest.

The program will be funded by a five-year, \$2.2 million contract between the D.C. Department of Mental Health and Catholic Community Services. A team of psychiatrists and caseworkers will staff the facility and seek to link people with adult education, legal support and other services beyond mental health care.

The shelter, on 13th Street NW, caters to single homeless men 18 and older and can house as many as 300 people nightly.

Greater Southeast mess jolts plans for D.C. psychiatric program

Tuesday 31, 2007; *The Examiner*

Washington, D.C. -

The D.C. government is searching for a new location for a critical psychiatric center now that struggling Greater Southeast Community Hospital has withdrawn from an agreement to house the program there.

Through the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program, the District's Department of Mental Health provides emergency evaluations and treatment for 280 adults annually at its six-bed facility on the D.C. General Campus. But the office has deteriorated to the point where it "now threatens the health and safety of both patients and ... employees," according to an emergency resolution recently adopted by the D.C. Council.

To read the rest of this article, please click on the link below:

<http://www.examiner.com/a-855082-Greater%20Southeast%20mess%20jolts%20plans%20for%20D%20C%20psychiatric%20program.html>