

Staying in Touch

July 2008

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**Summer Concerts
Kick Off
at Saint Elizabeths!**

Message from the Director



Dear DMH Employee,

June was a great month for us. On June 20, we graduated a number of students from our clinical programs at Saint Elizabeths—psychiatry, psychology, dentistry and clergy. The psychiatry graduates held a

a celebration dinner that evening with their families, faculty and staff. I had a great time—it was warm and funny event with some families coming from great distances to be there. I wish all the graduates well, and I am especially pleased that Dr. Syed Zaidi is staying with the Hospital.

This month we took two big steps to enhance access to mental health services. The much anticipated consumer wellness and resource center opened with a big party. This is the only consumer run center in the District and we are very excited about this important resource to support people take a lead in their own recovery. You can read more about the center and see pictures from the opening later in the newsletter.

Through great work and leadership by **Dr. Steve Steury** in conceptualizing this initiative and his continued leadership with **Dr. Barbara Bazron**, an urgent care clinic opened on the first floor at Superior Court. This service is to provide easy access to people in contact with the court system who need mental health services.

The new clinic which will be operated by Psychiatric Institute of Washington will serve primarily people who appear in misdemeanor and traffic court who show signs of both mental illness and a substance abuse disorders. This will be a big help with our outreach particularly to homeless people who are arrested repeatedly for misdemeanor offenses and may have untreated mental illness.

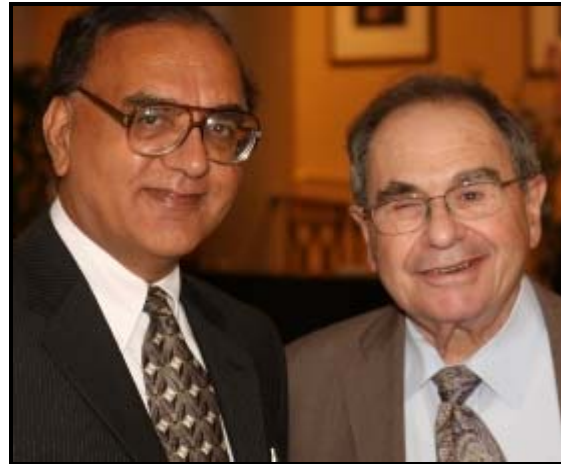
If you have suggestions or ideas about how to make the Department even better, I would love to hear from you at steve.baron@dc.gov.

Steve

Big Day At Saint Elizabeths as Psychiatry, Psychology, Dentistry and Clergy Residents and Students Graduate



Farooq Mohyuddin, MD, Program Director
Psychiatry Residency Training Program



Dr. Syed Zaidi with retired Saint Elizabeth
faculty member Albert Taub. Dr. Zaidi joined
the Saint Elizabeths team.

Ida Mae Campbell Wellness and Resource Center Opens!



DMH Director Baron, Committee on Health Chair David
Catania, Ward 5 Councilmember Harry "Tommy" Thomas
and Director Beverly McCollum line up to cut the ribbon.

The Ida Mae Campbell Wellness & Resource Center opened on June 25 with live music and dance performers, a silent auction, and many, many consumers, friends and supporters.

Councilmembers David Catania and **Harry Thomas** were on hand for the ribbon cutting with **Director Baron** and Center Director **Beverly McCollum**.

DMH awarded the Ida Mae Campbell Foundation a \$1.2 million dollar contract over five years to operate the center in partnership with Pathways to Housing D.C. It will offer a range of services and opportunities including work enhancement skills and computer training, wellness/recovery workshops, social interaction with peers, and information about legal rights and resources.

A self-advocate, Beverly McCollum has been involved with D.C.'s Peer Recovery Movement since 2003. He has extensive experience as a direct provider of services and manager of mental health programs.

Special congratulations to **Vivi Smith** and **Sharon White** for their leadership and dedication in making this happen.

Employee Spotlight: Ruth Smith Landry

Though she supervises three pharmacists and two sites, **Ruth Smith Landry** said if it's busy or short staffed, she "can put on her little white jacket," and fill prescriptions.

Ruth Smith Landry has been the supervisor of pharmacy for DCCSA since 1992. She previously worked at Saint Elizabeths. And, before joining the District Government, she was a pharmacist in the private sector for more than 20 years.

The DCCSA pharmacy provides medicines for consumers without insurance or who are unable to pay. **Ruth** said her biggest challenge is managing her \$3 million annual budget to make sure she has the medication she needs for the entire fiscal year.

On the other hand, she loves her job and said it's very rewarding to see consumers get better and know that she has played a role. However, she is quick to point out that recovery takes more than medication—and she credits therapy and the entire treatment team.

Born and raised in Dallas, Texas, **Ruth** came to the District to attend Howard University and never went back. After graduating with a BS in pharmacy, she settled in Washington.



Ruth Smith Landry

She is active in the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority. She also enjoys reading murder mystery novels—James Patterson is a favorite—and playing cards. She attends Immaculate Conception Catholic Church where she is a lay leader and lay minister. For the past ten years, she has attended the annual "Thomas A Dorsey National Convention of Gospel Choirs and choruses".

Familiar Faces at the Opening of the Consumer Center



The opening drew a big crowd of consumers, supporters, providers, and DMH staff. Look closely for Barbara Bazron, James Jackson and Trina Dutta.



Sharon White who played a leading role in the opening of the center as acting consumer affairs director with new director Vivi Smith

Saint Elizabeths Hospital Kicks off Summer Concerts

It's that time of year again for music lovers of all kind. Saint Elizabeths Hospital kicks off its free summer concert series this month with a variety of music—from Rock, to Jazz to Spirituals. Concerts will be held each Wednesday from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. through September. A schedule including performers is on our website, www.dmh.dc.gov.

The concerts are organized by Rehabilitation Services and celebrate the Hospital's pioneer role in music and dance therapy as a mechanism for healing and expression. More than 70 music therapists have been trained at the Hospital.

A highlight of the concert series this year is a performance on July 9 by Butch Warren, a former patient who credits the Hospital with his recovery. He was recently featured on NBC with historical research from **Dr. Suryabala Kanhouwa**. Butch Warren's Music therapy plays traditional jazz at the Columbia Station Club in Adams Morgan.

"We are honored to have Mr. Warren come to the hospital to perform. He is a music legend. Furthermore, he is an example of an individual living with mental illness who is able to transcend dysfunction and buck stigma through his incredible talents and historic achievements," said **V.J. Hyde**, MT-BC, Chief Music Therapist.

This concert will take place at John Howard so call **Crystal Robinson** on (202)645-4767 to confirm your attendance. All concerts are open to the public and are held in the rear of the CT-8 Building near the Alabama Avenue Metro Station.

Upcoming Events

To let me know about your upcoming event, contact phyllis.jones@dc.gov

DC CSA Opening Doors
Psychiatric Residents Clinic Open House **July 8**

DMH Training Institute
Community-Based Intervention
(Session 377) **July 10**

Saint Elizabeths Summer Concerts **July 9, 16, 23, 30**

COSIG Rocks!

That according to a recent survey of the graduates of the first two COSIG competency certificate program to gauge the usefulness and effectiveness of the COSIG training and to identify potential barriers to implementation practice.

95% of the respondents said that the course was good or excellent in meeting the proposed learning objectives. Yet, just 42% reported that their agencies were very receptive to implementing the practices but only 20% cited administration and external resources as the cause of the resistance. A majority believe that training of other staff, more funding and more clinical supervision would help their agencies better implement evidence-based practices around co-occurring disorders.

Nearly half of the 41 graduates completed the on line survey—with a majority line staff and supervisors, i.e., counselors, nurses, or social workers. 65% of the agencies in which respondents work serve both mental health and substance abuse clients.

A little more than half of the respondents reported they have either been promoted or given greater responsibility and nearly 70% said they actively building on their knowledge and skills since graduation.



Lynn Smith, COSIG Director of Training, and Dr. Steve Steury, Chief Clinical Officer and COSIG Director, welcome survey results.