

Staying in Touch

October 2008

Inside This Issue

- 1 Message from the Director
- 2 DC COSIG Graduation
- 2 Saint Elizabeth Campus Walking Tour
- 3 Employee Spotlight:
Marie Morilus-Black
- 3 News from Human Resources
- 4 Photos from Saint Elizabeths Tour
- 4 Olmstead Conference
- 4 15th Annual Race for Mental Health

**Register now for the 5K
Race for Mental Health
Saturday, November 1!**

www.active.com

Message from the Director



Dear DMH Employee,

By now, you are aware that DMH submitted its report to the Council on the future of the DC CSA. The report articulates a major redesign of the public mental health system which we believe will increase the number

of individuals served and offer a wider range of mental health services. Under the redesign, the government will no longer provide direct services through the DC CSA. I cannot overemphasize that this decision is no reflection on the many dedicated employees who work there. Rather, we have concluded that services can be provided more efficiently by the private provider network while at the same time expanding the range of services to more people.

I am committed to working with existing staff to minimize the impact of this change. I have directed the Human Resources office to start job placement services now. The first place we will look is vacant positions right here within DMH at the Hospital and at the Authority. We are now matching qualified employees with positions and they will be automatically referred for consideration and hiring unless a written justification is given for a more qualified candidate. And, we are working with our sister agencies that have comparable positions and identifying positions outside government.

I have set up a project management office and a number of workgroups to ensure consumers are properly involved in selecting a new provider and to manage all other aspects of the transition. I want to again commend **Juanita Price** and the **DC CSA staff** for their continued focus on patient care during this time.

If you have any questions, I encourage you to go to our website www.dmh.dc.gov and click on the DC CSA report to the Council link and as always feel free to contact me at steve.baron@dc.gov.

Steve

DC COSIG Honors 81 New Graduates of Training Program

COSIG held a ceremony recently to recognize 81 new graduates of its 100 hour Co-occurring Clinical Competency Certificate Training program. 32 were in the first class that graduated a year ago. Without a doubt, COSIG has met its goal of increasing the number of co-occurring competent clinicians in the public system.

Graduates—from DMH, Saint Elizabeths, APRA and community providers—are named below:

2007 Graduates—Class II

James Brown, Alvin Deskins, Stephanie Deskins, Elad Felix Ewongkem, Rodney General, Earl Harris-Nicholls, Sonia Harvey, Verne J. Hyde, Harold Jolley, Javita Lazo, Maximo Ortiz, Samuel Osborne, Sharif Ali Shafi', Sheila Stone, Josephine Ugochukwu, Angela West, April Wills, Lucinda Woodland

2008 Graduates—Class III

Enoch Apaibinyesim, Clifton Barret, Michelle Blount, Deborah Bowman, Betty Brown-Bugg, Patricia Carrington-Grey, Michelle Coleman, Squire Daniels, Darlene Dutton, Albert Farmer, Kimberly Griggs, Bruce Haliburton, Saied Hashim, Deborah King, Joan P. Middleton, Steven Miller, Uzo Nwokwu, Modupe Ade Olaniyan, Tamara Pincus, Ingrid A. Reed, Anitra' Sivals, Carmen Smith, Dorothy Smith, Canzada Twyman

2008 Graduates Class IV

Fahim Abdul-Hakim, Robert Chambers, Laryssa Creswell, Regina Draffin, Octavia Fletcher,



Nike Hamilton, lead trainer, is honored by **Dr. Steve Steury**, Chief Clinical Officer and **Sheila Stone**, Saint Elizabeths

Monekia General, Marilyn Hawkins, David Hinnant, Cassandra Monroe, Veronica Norman, Dada Okusanya, Shirley Quarlus, Gale Sloan, Phillis Shipman, Gail Smith, Rita M. Steele, Gregory Williams, Venus Young, Elaine Zellars

2008 Graduates—Class V

Myla Adams, Paul Adegbite, Corey Beauford, Macletus Dejoie-Smith, Janice Dessaso, Jacquie Frye-Adams, David Gaviria Muñoz, Eleni Getachew, Jean-Michel Giraud, Cynthia Green, Liz Leotsakos, Marcie Lewis, Kitty Monahan, Angele Moss-Baker, James Myricks, Marjorie Robinson, Genevieve Ruffin, Michael Smith, José Carlos Vera, Laurie Williams

Saint Elizabeths Campus Added to Annual Walking Town Tours

For the first time, Saint Elizabeths Hospital was added to the list of sights on the Annual Walking Town Tours of DC sponsored by Cultural Tourism DC. It's no surprise that the tour of the Hospital's beautiful campus was a big success!

More than 72 people signed up for the "St. Elizabeths East Campus Tour- Past, Present and Future" on September 20. The tour started at the Blackburn Laboratory and visitors saw the old amphitheater and historic exhibits and brain collections organized by **Dr. Suryabala Kanhouwa**, Director of the Laboratory. **Dr. Kanhouwa** and **Dr. Jogues Prandoni** are the "unofficial" Hospital historians.

During a walking tour of the East Campus, **Dr. Prandoni** talked about the forensic program and gave an update on construction of the new hospital. There were two visitors from Europe who had heard a lot about the pioneer role of Saint Elizabeths in Psychiatry.

At the end of the tour people were interested in learning more about Saint Elizabeths and didn't want to leave. More than 40 people stayed for an unscheduled presentation by **Dr. Kanhouwa** on the history of the Hospital. We have just one question...what took them so long?

See photographs of the tour taken by Dr. Prandoni on page 4.

Employee Spotlight: Marie Morilus-Black—new Director of Children and Youth Services

During her first week on the job, **Marie Morilus-Black** attended a Council hearing on the school mental health program, participated in a children's roundtable and back to back meetings with advocates, providers and youth serving agencies—and flew to Atlanta for a one day meeting. And, she didn't break a sweat. The new director of Children and Youth Services is no stranger to a fast-paced, high energy environment.

For the last four years, she served in a similar position at the Erie County Department of Social Services and Office of Mental Health in Buffalo, New York. In recognition of her work, when she resigned to come to DMH, the County Executive issued a proclamation naming September 18, **Marie Morilus-Black Day!**

Marie has spent her career working with children starting 20 years ago as a Parent Counselor II - Adoption Coordinator. She has served in various leadership and administrative positions associated with the implementation and continued operations of a System of Care transformation that impacts the lives of thousands of children and their families.

Most of all, she says she is motivated by her love for God's people, particularly children.

Marie received a Master of Social Work from the University of New York at Buffalo and is a registered license clinical social worker (LCSW-R). She earned bachelor of arts degrees in psychology and interdisciplinary early childhood from the



Marie Morilus-Black

same university. Until her move to Washington, she taught a graduate level clinical second year required course at the School of Social Work at her alma mater and supervised student clinical practicum in the field.

She and her husband Ken are the proud parents of 19 year old Malik, a sophomore at the University of New York at Buffalo.

Her favorite places to visit in the United States are Charlotte, NC and Hawaii. Fluent in French, she loves Paris especially the wonderful museums. In her rare spare moments, she likes to read, dance and decorate.

Welcome, **Marie!**

Human Resources News: Reminder—Benefits Session and E-time

Don't forget the Benefits Information Session on Wednesday, October 15, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fifth floor training room. You can get your questions answered about the various individual retirement programs, dental and vision plans, and the US Savings bonds and college savings plan. You don't need to register to attend.

If you miss the session and have questions, you can contact **Louisa Buadoo-Amoa**, Ph. D., MSA on 673-3652 or Louisa.buadoo-amoa@dc.gov.

E-time reminder. All time should be entered weekly no later than Thursday and approved by a supervisor or manager by COB Tuesday, following the end of a pay period. If you do not meet this schedule, you run the risk of not being paid on time. If you are unable to enter or approve time, you may contact the agency "superusers" who are listed below:

MHA: Anglia Fulwood at 673.4587
Hospital: Cecile Payne at 645.5471
DCCSA: Leatrice Worsley at 671.4009

Annual Walking Town Tour at Saint Elizabeths Hospital



Courtesy of Dr. Jogues Prandoni



Courtesy of Dr. Jogues Prandoni

A Big Step Closer to Olmstead Plan

The Office of Consumer and Family Affairs held a conference with consumers and their family members, advocates and providers on September 23 to engage consumers about Olmstead planning and inform them of their rights.

The DC Office of Disability Rights is conducting a year long process to develop a plan—called the Olmstead Plan—to comply with a 1999 Supreme Court decision in *Olmstead v. L.C.* that states could not legally require people with disabilities to remain institutionalized in order to receive health care services.

“It’s important for consumers to know their rights so they can be active, informed participants in discharge planning,” said **Vivi Smith**, Director of the Office of Consumer and Family Affairs. The Ida Mae Campbell Foundation which operates the consumer wellness center and the Consumer Leadership forum participated in the conference.

The availability and quality of community-based services largely determine whether individuals in need of long term care can live in the community instead of an institutional setting such as a nursing facility.

Register Now for Annual 5K Race for Mental Health!

It’s time to pull on your running or walking shoes. Registration is now open for the 15th Annual 5K Race for Mental Health on Saturday, November 1, 2008. The race starts at 9 a.m. and includes a one mile walk. You can register on line at www.active.com or on site the day of the race.

The certified race is sponsored by the DC CSA and its Mental Health Advisory Board Collaborative and benefits people with differing abilities. On site registration opens at 8 a.m., and pre-registered participants should come to the Fitzgerald Tennis Center, at 16th and Kennedy Streets, NW, to check in and pick up race packets from 8 am—8:45 am.

Registration fees are \$25.00 for the 5K run and \$15.00 for the one mile walk. Registration for children 12 and under is \$10.00. Checks should be made payable to *Citizens Advisory Board Region 3 – 4*.

For more information, call **John Graham**, Race Coordinator, at (202) 576-5136. Refreshments will be served after the race!

*eNewsletter produced by Phyllis Jones, PIO
Paul Davis, Photographer*