

Staying in Touch

July 2009

Message from the Director

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Saint Elizabeths Graduates from Residency Programs

See pictures on page 4



Dear DMH Employee,

I had the opportunity to participate in a wonderful event that celebrated the role of the DC CSA in providing mental health services in the District. While the DC CSA was established just 8 years ago, its legacy of service dates back to the Commission on Mental Health and Saint Elizabeths Hospital. As the largest single mental health provider in the District, employees of the DC

CSA served thousands of consumers of all ages along the journey to recovery. The DC CSA operated the pharmacy for uninsured consumers and held health clinics to promote access. The roots of the model School Based Mental Health Program and the Homeless Outreach Program are within the DC CSA.

Before the establishment of the mobile crisis services teams, DC CSA provided countless hours of support to victims of fires, floods and other emergencies. DC CSA employees were among first responders in the aftermath of September 11 and went into neighborhoods knocking on doors to share information and calm fears during the Anthrax Scare.

To promote self-esteem and recovery, the DC CSA held annual consumer recognition programs, and sponsored the annual Race for Mental Health which challenged lingering stigma against people who seek mental health treatment.

Though the DC CSA will close as a government operated entity, the unique services that it provided will continue as part of the DMH and its history of dedicated service will be remembered. I thank the DC CSA for its service.

I welcome your comments or suggestions on any subject regarding DMH at steve.baron@dc.gov.

Steve

DMH Welcomes 100 Participants in Mayor's Summer Youth Employment Program: Meet two of them

Tairese Brown grew up in the Southeast neighborhood and is a graduate of the Academy for Ideal Education. Her summer at DMH is ideal as she plans to become a social worker.

A classy dresser, **Tairese** was a cheerleader in school and loves double dutch. Her hobbies are photography, shopping and socializing with her family. Her dream is to model with Tyra Banks.



Tairese Brown



Keisha Gordon

Keisha Gordon is a 16 years old junior at Young America Works PCS. She plays basketball and loves to shop. She has six siblings but an older brother passed away in March. She grew up on 7th & Girard Streets in Northeast.

Keisha plans to go to college and become an FBI Agent. She is confident that she can do just about anything she wants to do because she says she is going to try her hardest.

DMH Chapter of Blacks in Government Outlines Agenda

Blacks in Government, Inc. (BIG) was established in 1975 by a small group of African Americans at the Public Health Services. The Saint Elizabeths Hospital Chapter of BIG was a charter member of the national chapter. After the federal government transferred hospital operations to the District, the Hospital Chapter became the chapter for the entire department, according to Chapter President **Rick Parr**, program analyst in the Office of Strategic Planning.

BIG has been a national response to the need for African Americans in public service to organize around issues of mutual concern and use their collective strength to confront workplace and community issues. BIG's goals are to promote EQUITY in all aspects of American life, EXCELLENCE in public service, and OPPORTUNITY for all Americans.

BIG has established an ambitious agenda for 2009. Among the initiatives approved by the membership include:

1. Change the name and mission of the DMH Chapter of BIG to the District of Columbia

Government Chapter of BIG to represent the entire Government.

2. Host an annual State of the District Governance Banquet where the results of an employee survey on government effectiveness, efficiency, and transparency are revealed.
3. Create a Blacks in Government Hall of Fame to recognize historical African American figures that have served in the District or Federal Government in DC.
4. Increase the current membership of 55 to 200 by the end of the year.
5. Issue a statement in support of relocating all employees of the DC CSA with full employment.

The 31st Annual National Training Conference will be August 24-28 in Baltimore. For more information, contact Rick.parr@dc.gov. For information about membership, contact Membership Committee Chair and BIG Vice President, Alstephenous Boone, alstephenous.boone@dc.gov. or at Saint Elizabeths, Chapter Secretary, Cassandra Jackson, Cassandra.jackson@dc.gov.

Employee Spotlight: Alvin Hinkle

In January 2007, **Alvin Hinkle** was charged with working with 50 patients at Saint Elizabeths to ease their reintegration into the community. To make it happen, Alvin took time to develop a personal relationship with the consumers and to help them develop a rhythm outside while still inside the Hospital.

In addition to regular visits on the ward and meetings with treatment teams, he took them to the Thrift Store to buy clothes and out to dinner to help with table etiquette—all aimed at making the reintegration smoother. The result is that **Alvin** facilitated the discharge of 100 patients—with a readmission rate to date of about 20%.

Using his work as a model, a new Integrated Care division was set up to transition patients from Saint Elizabeths. **Alvin** can explain a discharge process that works in minute detail from A to Z—he says the key is multiagency collaboration to develop a comprehensive plan of care that starts the discharge process in the Hospital and puts the necessary supports in place. One of his focus populations is patients dually diagnosed with mental retardation.

A former residential group home provider for people with mental retardation, **Alvin** says it is a joy to see people who have been at Saint Elizabeths for years move into their own apartment and to eat the first meal with them.

Alvin started at DMH in 1991 as a social worker doing intake at Spring Road. Since then, he has had many leadership responsibilities, including director of central intake division for child services at DC General and director of mental health services at Oak Hill. He later led mobile crisis services and named it MUST—mobile



Alvin Hinckley

urgent stabilization team. He also established the first intensive case management team which became CBI.

Born in Shreveport, LA and raised in DC, **Alvin** is a service brat. A product of DC public schools, he earned a master of social work from the University of Maryland School of Social Work after serving as a paralegal in the Marine Corp. He also has an undergraduate degree from Morgan State. He and his wife are the proud parents of a 7 year old son who loves martial arts and a 26 year old daughter who graduated from the Naval Academy. They have one grandchild.

A Quick Look at the Language Access Requirements

DMH is mandated by the DC Language Access Act of 2004 to provide language interpretation and translation to limited and no English proficient (LEP/NEP) consumers. About 299 consumers from 41 countries who speak 19 different languages are served in DMH's Multicultural Program.

According to **Dr. Tedla Giorgis**, Language Access Coordinator, we are now collecting data on bilingual staff and the number of LEP/NEP consumers receiving services by DMH partners. In consultation with the Offices of Latino, Asian and Pacific Islanders and African Affairs, **Dr. Giorgis** is

developing plans to increase the capacity of community based providers to provide linguistically and culturally competent services to LEP/NEP consumers.

Under the Language Access Act, DMH is required to take several actions. They are:

- Assess the need for and offer oral language services;
- Provide written translation of vital documents into any non-English language spoken by an LEP/NEP population that constitutes 3% or 500 individuals, whichever is less, of the population

Saint Elizabeths Holds Residency Programs Graduation



Psychology residents from l: Brady Haycock, Kathryn Bristol, Corey Burchette, Dr. Richard Gontang (Director), Holly Casazza, Alison Witmer, Katherine Murphy, Deborah Gambles



Dentistry residents from l: Edmond M. Franklin, Ade Osunde, Bert Hall, Nakia Bush, Natalie Stimpson, Dwight Brown (Takeisha Presson, not pictured)

Dr. Muhammad Atique and **Dr. Feng Dong** will be joining the staff of Saint Elizabeths following their recent completion of the Psychiatry Residency Training Program. Saint Elizabeths held its annual graduation ceremony in late June for its residency and training programs in Chaplaincy, Dentistry, Psychiatry, and Psychology.

The 33 graduates come from local universities and from schools across the country. All the dentistry residents are graduates of Howard University. Others come from as far away as Pakistan and China.

Language access requirement

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served or encountered, or likely to be served or encountered;

- Establish and implement a biennial language access plan to include data collection, translation, recruitment of bilingual staff, and cultural competence training, and
- Identify a language access coordinator.

If you have any questions, you can contact **Dr. Giorgis** on 202 673-3538 (office) or 202 329-3008 (cell) – tedla.giorgis@dc.gov.

The residency programs provide intense training and hands on opportunities—one year for Dentistry, Chaplaincy and Psychology Doctoral Intern; two years for Psychology Post-Doctoral Residency, and four years for Psychiatry.

Graduates go on to private practice, doctoral fellowships, full-time jobs, or continue post-residency programs at Saint Elizabeths and other hospitals around the country. We are very excited that a few of the graduates from the Psychiatry program will be joining the Hospital staff.

Congratulations to **Dr. Atique** and **Dr. Dong!** Congratulations to **Dr. Farooq Mohyuddin** (Psychiatry), **Dr. Richard Gontang** (Psychology), **Rev. Michael Schirmacher** (Director of Chaplaincy), and **Dr. Bert Hall** (Dentistry) and **Dr. Karen Owens** (Chief of Dental Services) for their outstanding achievements.

Dr. Deborah J. Hales, Director of Education for the American Psychiatric Association, was the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony. **Director Baron** and **Dr. Steven Steury**, Clinical Director, also spoke.

*All photographs by Paul Davis unless otherwise noted.
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