

Staying in Touch

November 2009

Message from the Director

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**Open Enrollment now
Through December 14,
2009**

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Dear DMH Employee,

The upcoming Olmstead Conference on December 18 will explore ways to develop appropriate resources that support consumers in their efforts to live successful, fully integrated lives in our communities.

I am very excited about the work of the new Integrated Care Division at the Authority in support of this goal. Working

with treatment teams at Saint Elizabeths, community providers, and other government agencies, the Integrated Care Division has had tremendous success in eliminating barriers to enable long term patients to transition to community treatment. They have assisted with the discharge of more than 160 patients in the last year, and, just recently, an individual with a 30 year stay at the Hospital moved into the community.

These accomplishments did not come easy. The key is careful planning with a collaborative approach that includes the patients, their families/significant others and all the partners to develop a comprehensive plan of care for each person that puts the necessary supports in place prior to discharge. As a result, the vast majority of the individuals are remaining in the community.

Finally, I want to thank those of you who volunteered with the DOH Health H1N1 clinics. I also want to acknowledge **Julia Maxwell** and **Mary Campbell** for their work in setting up clinics for DMH employees and consumers and their families in the targeted populations.

Please email me if you have any comments at steve.baron@dc.gov.

Steve

Join the Saint Elizabeths Experience: *Learning and sharing together*

Join the Saint Elizabeths Experience!

Learning and Sharing

Experience what its like to work at Saint Elizabeths.

Share your expertise with Hospital staff.

Experience the day-to-day operations of the Hospital as it relates to your job duties or educational background.

Interact with individuals in care.

Interested?

Contact your supervisor for an Interest Form & Program Descriptions or go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=yHNXlhThPWktren_2f1pZVA_3d_3d

Call 645-1079 for more information.

Can you play the guitar? Or paint? Now's your chance to teach a class at the treatment learning center at Saint Elizabeths. Would you like a few hours break from your regular duties during the month –and spend that time reviewing patient charts to ensure compliance with audit requirements? These are just two ways you can participate in an exciting new program at Saint Elizabeths.

The Saint Elizabeths Experience Program aims to take advantage of the skills and interests of all DMH employees by allowing non hospital employees to perform specific functions at the Hospital.

“We recognize that DMH employees represent many disciplines and their expertise could be very beneficial to the individuals in care and Hospital staff,” said Hospital CEO Patrick Canavan. “On the other hand, we are confident that it will be a rewarding experience for non Hospital staff to experience the day to day operations of the Hospital.”

If you are interested, please contact your supervisor for more information and program descriptions, or contact Tamil Perry, Public Affairs Officer at 645-1079, or tamil.perry@dc.gov.

CPEP in the News: Mobile Crisis Services Featured

CPEP and the mobile crisis services team were featured in a recent Washington Post article. Henri Cauvin writes:

“...In an agency with hundreds of employees and a budget of more than \$200 million, the mobile crisis team and the rest of the [Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program](#) play an outside role in the effort to provide treatment and curb unnecessary admissions to psychiatric wards.”

Read the entire story by clicking on the link:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/11/08/AR2009110818231.html?referrer=emailarticle>

One reader responded with a Letter to the Editor on November 15, 2009

Regarding the Nov. 9 Metro [article](#) "Mobile unit aids D.C.'s mentally ill during crises"

How nice to read about an aspect of the mental-health-care system that is functioning well. The new mobile crisis team in the District is an example of what can work in a broken system. Nicholle Hill's quote at the end of the article -- "there is a certain privilege that goes along with being able to be there for somebody in their darkest moment" -- points to how effective it is to have educated, caring and trained professionals doing this kind of work in our community.

Employee Spotlight: Wiley Trimmier

No matter the emergency—whether a flood, a fire or just a lockout—and, no matter the day or the hour, Wiley Trimmier is the person to call. And, he always gets the job done.

Wiley Trimmier is the housekeeping foreman at RMB—the second largest building at Saint Elizabeths, and he has a reputation for dependability and dedication. With a staff of ten, he is responsible for the general upkeep and maintenance of RMB which houses about 184 consumers and staff. The building's age presents ongoing challenges for his team.

Mr. Trimmier says that what he enjoys most about his job is working directly along side his staff to get the job done. He also prides himself on training his staff in new and improved methods of keeping the facility in the best condition possible to support the services provided there.

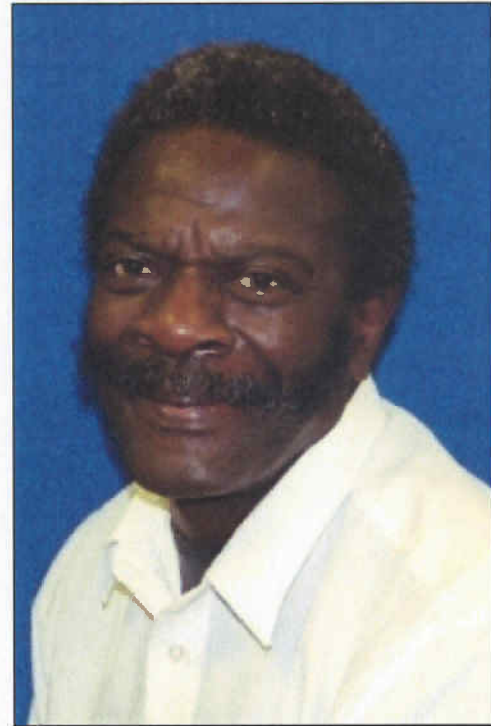
Mr. Trimmier has 35 years of service at Saint Elizabeths. Before that, he worked in the transportation units at the General Services Administration and at the White House (when Ronald Reagan was president). For a short period of time he was the chauffeur for the Drug Czar.

He grew up in South Carolina and served in the military before moving to the District. He raised a son as a single parent. He proudly relays that his son graduated from Alabama A&M University and is now a manager at Lockheed Martin.

News from Human Resources

Use or Lose: Annual leave in excess of the maximum carryover of 240 hours must be used prior to January 3, 2010 to avoid forfeiture. If approved leave cannot be taken or rescheduled due to illness or an exigency of public business, it can be restored if the following requirements are met:

- An Application for Leave must be approved no later than November 21, 2009
- A determination must be made in writing by the Director or his designee that the approved leave is cancelled due to public business.



Wiley Trimmier

He enjoys cleaning and detailing cars and making minor repairs. He also spends time working at his church, making sure that the facility is kept clean and making any repairs that may be needed.

Mr. Trimmier is excited about the opening of the new hospital next March. He looks forward to the challenges of adapting to the new and specialized housekeeping needs of a new state of the art facility.

- If the leave can not be taken due to illness and can not be rescheduled, a medical certificate must be provided.
- Requests for restoration of leave must be submitted prior to January 8, 2010 through your supervisor. No action will be taken on requests sent directly to Director Baron.

Keep in mind, if your unused leave is not restored, it can go to good use. Use-or-lose annual leave can be donated to the annual leave bank or the voluntary leave transfer program. The application must be returned by December 12, 2009. Please contact HR to get an application or to answers to any questions about use or lose leave on (202) 673-3655.

Open Enrollment Season through December 14: Easy as ESS!

This open enrollment period, you will see big changes that will make your elections easier and give you an expanded range of benefits to choose from.

Open Enrollment is the only time you can make changes to your existing benefits for the upcoming plan year. You can enroll in or opt out of health, dental, long term or short term disability, and flexible spending benefits. (For Flexible Spending and Dependent Care Accounts, you must enter your annual pledge amounts.) You can review 2010 benefits rates on www.dchr.dc.gov.

Make Changes from Home using Employee Self Service (ESS)

For the first time, you can access ESS from home. All ESS functions such as benefits elections, exemption changes, direct deposit information, pay check view, compensation history and beneficiary updates will be accessible from remote sites. In addition, for the first time, you will receive a confirmation email verifying your elections. Please note that the email address used for the confirmation will be the email addressed used at the time of ESS registration.

New Benefits!

Two new benefits are available whether you are in the federal or District health benefit plan:

Commuter Benefits: You can elect pre-tax deductions to be used for commuter expenses.

Upcoming Events

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

Dixon Status Hearing **December 16**

2nd Annual Olmstead Conference **December 18**
10 a.m.-3 p.m.

For more information, contact Vivi Smith at vivi.smith@dc.gov or (202)673-4377

Supplemental Indemnity Insurance: You can now enroll in supplemental insurance plans other than short-term and long-term disability benefits. Offered by AFLAC, the plan offerings include:

- Specified Health Event Insurance
- Hospital Confinement Insurance
- Personal Accident Insurance
- Personal Sickness Insurance
- Cancer Indemnity Insurance

Keep in mind that the premiums of the AFLAC offerings are solely the responsibility of the employee. Please note that if you are currently participating with AFLAC through an individual payroll allotment, you will need to enroll through the District sponsored program in order to get the advertised rates. For more information, go to <http://www.aflacclients.com/dcgov/Welcome.aspx>

Plan Upgrades!

The AETNA QPOS plan offered through the District of Columbia Employees Health Benefits (DCEHB) will change to the AETNA PPO Open Choice Plan. This upgrade offers a robust PPO option and provides increased services, increased providers and greater ease of physician selection.

In addition, Flexible Spending Accounts debit cards now will be available for employees participating in health and dependent care accounts.

This year, DC HR will not hold information sessions on site at DMH. If you want to receive open enrollment materials, you can attend one of the locations listed on the www.dchr.dc.gov. If you have any questions, contact DMH HR.

*All photographs by Paul Davis unless otherwise noted.
eNewsletter produced by Phyllis Jones, PIO, John Graham, Community Outreach Officer, and JoAnn Davis, Executive Assistant to the Director.*