



DMH News Bulletin



Washington, DC

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*Timely news on events, services, people, funding and innovations at the
D.C. Department of Mental Health*

US District Court Judge Ends Mental Health Receivership . . . Judge Norma Holloway Johnson terminated the receivership under which the D.C. Department of Mental Health has operated since 1997. The judge's decision followed the May 22 hearing where attorneys for both parties to the Dixon suit, which charged the District government with failing to implement a community-based network of mental health services, agreed that sufficient progress has been made to create that system, therefore, the receivership was no longer necessary.

Mayor Anthony A. Williams said this is an enormously important accomplishment and that this transformation happened because of DMH's ability to demonstrate the capacity to run the mental health system properly and build a community-based network of care. **Peter J. Nickles**, who represented the plaintiffs, and Transitional Receiver **Dennis R. Jones** both expressed confidence in Mayor Williams' leadership and support for a sound mental health system. **Grace Lopes**, Acting General Counsel to the Mayor, said the parties had worked collaboratively with the Transitional Receiver to develop the exit criteria to be used to measure future implementation of the new mental health system. Monitoring the Department's work is the next step. **DMH Director Martha B. Knisley** said she appreciated the confidence the parties and the Receiver expressed in her and her team; she also credited her team with meeting the performance standards set by the Court to end the receivership and voiced confidence that they will bring that same determination to meeting the new exit criteria. Judge Johnson set September 5 to report progress.



St. Elizabeths Hospital's Forensic Services Graduates First Master Gardener Class . . . On May 30



consumers, family members and hospital staff attended the graduation of the first group of consumers to complete the Forensic Services Master Gardener/Horticulture Therapy Class. The program was developed by the Rehabilitation Services staff to expand educational and therapeutic opportunities available to maximum-security patients who must remain in John Howard Pavilion. The curriculum and graduation requirements are based upon guidelines endorsed by the National Gardening Association that teach consumers new skills to prepare them for competitive employment. The 40-hour program includes both formal classes and practical experience in the greenhouse and consumers are able to earn while they learn.



St. Elizabeths Hospital Consolidates on East Campus . . . As of June 1, St. Elizabeths Hospital operations will be consolidated on the East side of the grounds at 2700 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E. SEH staff is working very hard to prepare buildings on the East Campus so that ALL hospital personnel and operations can be located there. The move from the West to the East Campus ultimately will increase efficiency as all services will be closer to patient care areas. While more internal moves will occur on the East Campus, the following listing will help you to locate some of those areas that are on the East side for the first time.

<u>Department</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Medical Records	Smith Center, 3 rd Floor	645-6989
Post Office	Behavioral Studies, 1 st Floor	645-3681
Finance Officer	CT 3 B	645-7370
Security	RMB	645-7575
Facility Support	Behavioral Studies	645-5888
Library	CT 6 A	TBD
Warehouse	Behavioral Studies, 2 nd Floor	645-8900

Communication Center
Cashier's Office

Smith Center, 1st Floor
R Bldg., 1st Floor

562-4000
TBD

Consumers and Family Members Town Hall Meetings . . . The DMH Community Services Agency Office of Consumer Affairs, led by **Samuel Awosika**, recently hosted three Town Hall Meetings: "Building Resiliency in Children and Families" and "Moving Toward Recovery." Altogether, more than 150 consumers and guests developed strategies to facilitate communication between consumers/family members and the CSA. Representatives of NAMI-DC, DC Mental Health Consumers League, Washington Legal Clinic for the Homeless and the State Mental Health Planning Council shared literature and invited participants to learn about their programs.



DMH CSA Begins Delivering Mental Health Rehabilitation Services . . . On May 1, the CSA, now certified as a Core Service Agency, began providing these Mental Health Rehabilitation Services: Rehabilitation Services, Community Support, Assertive Community Treatment, Crisis/Emergency Services and Community-Based Intervention. The CSA's services are based on the recovery model, which includes rehabilitation services based on consumer choice and active consumer involvement as a partner in the rehabilitation planning process. Both formal and informal structures are in place for consumers to use to influence service development. The recovery model also embraces a strength-based approach that builds on the resiliency of children and youth in a family-centered process.



New DMH Compliance Line Goes Live June 1 . . . The new DMH Compliance Line, a toll-free telephone number, 1 (800) 345-5564, for employees to call 24 hours a day, seven days a week to report conduct believed to violate any federal or District laws or DMH policies, can be used starting June 1.



Consumers Learn about DC MAP . . . About 200 consumers attended a meeting about DC MAP (D.C. Medication Access Project) and its use in recovery. The program prepares consumers to provide peer group training and covers topics such as taking charge of one's recovery, self-monitoring for symptoms, side effects and knowledge of one's illness. Cindy Hopkins, Director of Consumer Affairs, and Steven Shon, M.D., Medical Director of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, led the session. DC MAP is a best practice guideline to assist psychiatrists in selection of medications and to provide consumer and family education.



Girl Scouts Salute Two DMH Employees . . . **Anna Sanders**, Contract Specialist in the Office of Contracts and Procurement, was honored by the Girl Scouts Council of the Nation's Capital at their Annual Meeting and Awards and Recognition Ceremony in April. Ms. Sanders was awarded the Nation's Capital Pin for her dedication and significant service in providing outstanding programs for girls within the Girl Scouts Council of the Nation's Capital. **Shirley Grow**, Budget Analyst in the Budget Office, received the Outstanding Volunteer Award from the Girl Scouts Council of the Nation's Capital at the Spring Association Meeting and Awards Recognition Ceremony May 4. Ms. Grow was recognized for her outstanding service benefiting the service unit and association.



Let's Celebrate Our Graduates . . . We want to acknowledge all children of DMH employees who will graduate this year from college or professional school. If you have a graduate, please send to any of the news bulletin contacts listed below for inclusion in the next news bulletin the following information: your name (DMH employee) and relationship to graduate, graduate's name, date of graduation, college or professional school and degree awarded.



Reminder . . . Please send your items to the editorial staff of the DMH News Bulletin. **Mental Health Authority:** Phyllis Blair, 673-1932, Phyllis.blair@dc.gov; Linda Grant, 673-1937, Linda.grant@dc.gov. **Community Services Agency:** John Graham, 442-4139, John.graham@dc.gov; Patricia O'Meally, 442-4108, Patricia.o'meally@dc.gov. **St. Elizabeths Hospital:** Jogues Prandoni, 645-8845, Jogues.Prandoni@dc.gov; Margaret Rollison, 645-6911, Margaret.rollison@dc.gov.

For further information or additional copies of this News Bulletin, write or call Linda Foxx, Office of the Director, DMH, 77 P Street, N.E., Wash., DC 20002, Phone 673-1928, Email-dcdmh.info@dc.gov.

Government of the District of Columbia
Anthony A. Williams, Mayor



D.C. Department of Mental Health
Martha B. Knisley, Director