



Head of the Class: DBHIDS staff who earned degrees between Aug. 2016 and June 2017 with Commissioner David T. Jones.

Population Health: Our New Approach to Wellness

DBHIDS is aiming to create a healthier, happier Philadelphia through a population health approach. To do and meet our mission to *educate, strengthen, and serve individuals and communities so that all Philadelphians can thrive*, we need you!

Beginning this month, we'll host a series of **Population Health Cafés**, engaging and interactive discussions that will not just allow you to understand how your work impacts our population health outreach but will also explore how our environment affects our day-to-day interactions. Ultimately, your input will help us develop our road map for the future.

We'll open each session with a quick survey through *Kahoot!* and then you'll have short, fun conversations with colleagues over a cup of coffee. For more information and to select a session, [please click here](#).

Commissioner Jones Celebrates Recent Graduates

On Wednesday, July 26, 13 DBHIDS staffers who earned their associate, bachelor, master, or doctoral degrees between August 2016 and June 2017 were recognized during the **2017 Graduation Luncheon with the Commissioner**. This annual event is an opportunity to celebrate the hard work and dedication of staff who have successfully managed to excel at work and in school as they pursue higher education. It was the first official staff event for newly-appointed Commissioner David T. Jones, who encouraged those in attendance to never back down from accepting challenges and preparing for whatever the future holds. "We often talk about how good of a job we've done and how the future of this

department is in good hands,” Jones said to the recent grads. “Well, people like you are the good hands we’re talking about. Know that you are and will be the leaders of DBHIDS, so prepare now for the opportunities to advance here in the future.”

Join Us for a Special Chat & Chew: Brunch with Commissioner Jones

Commissioner Jones is excited to connect with employees across the DBHIDS system and will be visiting all locations beginning this week! Be on the lookout for “*Brunch with the Commissioner*” sessions, which will take place each Thursday of this month from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. This is an opportunity for you to meet with Commissioner Jones, hear more about the vision for DBHIDS and share your thoughts about DBHIDS’ future. These will be very casual conversations and refreshments will be provided. The “*Brunch with the Commissioner*” schedule is as follows:

August 3 - 1101 Market (Main Conference Room, 7th Floor)

August 10 - 123 S. Broad (23rd Floor Conference Center)

August 17 - Community Behavioral Health (Room 1154A)

August 24 - Intellectual disability Services (Main Conference Room, 5th Floor)

August 31 - 520 Delaware Avenue (7th floor, Large Conference Room)

Backpack Challenge Returns



The annual **Backpack Challenge** is back! Please consider supporting this important initiative to help children in foster care as well as those who were previously in the system be prepared to succeed in the upcoming school year. The Backpack Challenge raises funds and collects essential items, including backpacks, calculators, combination locks, flash drives, folders, hand sanitizer, highlighters, index cards, pens and pencils, rulers, spiral notebooks, and three-ring binders. The Team DBHIDS Collection Box is located in the reception area by the information carousel. Please drop off items now through Aug. 18! You can also support the drive by making an [online donation](#). We thank you in advance for helping children throughout the City of Philadelphia!

NAMI Philly Launches New Website

The Philadelphia office of the National Alliance on Mental Health (NAMI) launched a new website on July 26. NamiPhilly.org gives individuals and family members affected by mental illness a place where they can find resources, information on support groups (both individual and family), free educational programs, and opportunities to volunteer with their local office. Visitors to the site can also become members of NAMI, and be a part of the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization. NAMI is dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. Visit NAMIPhilly.org today.

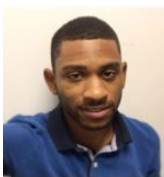
On the Move: Ramon Cruz Accepts New Role



Ramon Cruz, Jr. has recently accepted a new role - Administrative Assistant to the Special Liaison to the Deputy Commissioner for Community Development. The newly-created position is in DBHIDS' Planning and Innovation Division and will play a vital role in community outreach and engagement. Ramon will be involved with DBHIDS' cross-systems transformation work, the Philadelphia Recovery Coalition which organizes Recovery Idol, and the Engaging Males of Color (EMOC) initiative.

Prior to this new role, Ramon spent 10 months working as a Certified Peer Specialist. He has shared his story of more than 30 years of lived experience with substance use and enjoys doing so to help others get to recovery. Ramon's office is located at our BHSI Unit, 801 Market Street, 7th Floor (Suite 7200). Please be sure to stop by and congratulate him on this new role.

Welcome Aboard: Ricardo Tull, Jr. Joins DBHIDS Team



Ricardo "Rick" Tull, Jr. has joined the organization as an Administrative Services & Event Planning Specialist with the Planning and Innovation Division. He graduated from West Chester University with a degree in Political Science and Business and Technical Writing. Prior to working at DBHIDS, he worked as a Health Information Technology Consultant for TGM Medical Staffing, LLC.

Some of you may have met Rick earlier this year when he served as an intern, providing support to the Faith and Spiritual Affairs Conference under Mary Harper. In his new role,

Rick will be providing administrative support services and coordinating logistics related to community outreach and engagement events. He will be stationed at 1101 Market Street on the 8th Floor. Please be sure to officially welcome him to the team!

DBHIDS Partners with Local Organizations to Expose Youth to Career Possibilities

This summer, DBHIDS is once again partnering with local organizations such as the WorkReady Internship Program and VietLEAD to provide high school students and recent graduates with opportunities to explore career possibilities and gain valuable professional development skills.

WorkReady Philadelphia, managed by the Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN), addresses the skills gap for young people from traditionally disadvantaged communities. The program is designed to create meaningful experiences for youth, while shaping the future workforce of our city. VietLEAD is a new grassroots organization providing immigrant and refugee students with opportunities through the Real Internship for Community Engagement (RICE) program. Our WorkReady interns are Ma’Kiyah Slappy, Ivory Robinson and Imara Honay. Our VietLEAD interns are Giahon Tang and Tasfiyah Islam.

Ma’Kiyah Slappy is a senior at The Preparatory Charter School of Mathematics, Science, Technology and Career. Through her internship, Ma’Kiyah hopes to gain a greater understand of the behavioral health field, which she believes will help as she pursues a career as a social worker.

Ivory Robinson is a 2017 graduate of Agora Cyber Charter School. This fall, Ivory plans to attend Bryn Athyn College where she will major in psychology. Through her internship, Ivory hopes to learn how she can best help people who have gone through traumatic experiences.

Imara Honay is a junior at The Philadelphia High School for Girls who is interning with our Community Based Services Unit. She hopes to learn more about behavioral health and have experiences that will help shape her future career goals

Giahon Tang a junior at Central High School.

Tasfiah Islam, a senior at Northeast High School, plans to attend college and major in biology, on the pre-med track and become a surgeon.
