



DBHIDS employees Tiasha Dandy (left) and Lora Bynum (right) aim to end stigma around mental health through their new book, "Cree Wins The Day!"

## IDS Staff Show They Have the Write Stuff

Congratulations are in order to Lora Bynum and Tiasha Dandy, program analysts with the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services' Intellectual disAbility Services unit, for writing a new book, "Cree Wins the Day!" The book, which was released in May, was written to help children – and adults – feel more comfortable talking about behavioral health matters impacting youth. The project came about when the ladies, both of whom began working for DBHIDS in early 2016, started talking about the importance of people getting to the root of behavioral health issues for youth.

"Sometimes, the needs of children go overlooked. We're quick to say a child has behavioral issues or that they're just bad, but sometimes, they have conditions where they really need help," Bynum said. "This book was a way for us to really get the message out about children and how we can best help them."

Last July, Bynum and Dandy assembled an all-female team to bring their dream to reality, using a female editor, illustrator, and graphic designer to bring life to the book. They also started a Kickstarter campaign this past February to help fund the project, ultimately exceeding their \$3500 goal to cover expenses such as purchasing an ISBN Number (a 10 or 13-digit number identifying a book) and copyright for the book and developing marketing materials, because so many people saw value in the book.

"Cree Wins the Day!" is about a young girl who learns to deal with a mental health disorder. Authors Bynum and Dandy believe it's a great way to spark dialogue and help people talk openly about mental health.

“We wrote the book to help end stigma around mental health challenges,” Dandy said. “We’ve got to start talking more about this and realizing that, sometimes, people’s actions are more about them not really being able to communicate their needs.”

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## Communications Chat and Chew – Join Us and Learn How We Can Help!

As we begin the new fiscal year, the Communications Department invites you to join us on **Tuesday, July 11, from 2 to 3 p.m.** at Community Behavioral Health (801 Market Street - Room 1154A) for an informative session on how our talented group of professionals can best serve you as you strive to provide quality services and programming to City of Philadelphia residents. Hear first-hand about the processes for requesting collateral materials, implementing social media plans, and receive an update on the **new DBHIDS vision and mission statement**, as well as new policies to communications and events. This event is ideal for DBHIDS, CBH, and PHMCC employees who regularly interface with the public or need materials – digital or hard-copy – to inform and engage with the public.

Refreshments will be served, so please [email](#) us to confirm your attendance. We look forward to seeing and working with you!

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## Leadership Development Cohorts Celebrate Success

On Wednesday, June 28, 29 DBHIDS employees were celebrated for successfully completing the Managers/Supervisors Leadership Development program. The ceremony, which took place at CBH, was for the 13 members of Cohort 18 and 16 members of Cohort 19. Acting Commissioner David T. Jones opened the event by congratulating the graduates and issuing a charge by stressing the important role each graduate plays in helping all Philadelphia live healthier lives. “People are counting on you to lead and solidly implement the leadership practices you have learned throughout this journey,” Jones said.

Before the certificates were presented to the graduates, one special award was given. The annual award acknowledging the outstanding progress of a participant was renamed in honor of Alma Jean Taylor, who recently retired as Special Assistant to the Commissioner. Ms. Taylor was intricately involved with the development and growth of this program and was a fitting person to honor for her years of service to DBHIDS. The **Alma Jean Taylor Outstanding Leadership Development Award** was presented to Sean Brinda, manager of Peer Culture and Community Inclusion. Khalid Asad, principal and executive coach for Performance Plus International, closed out the ceremony by challenging each graduate to never be content with where they are, but rather strive to do their best in order to best serve others. “Good is the enemy of great,” Asad said. “You become stagnant when you settle for good. Be a leader and always try to go from good to great.”

If you have recommendations for future Leadership Development Program participants, please contact [Nicole Connell](#), special advisor to the Commissioner.



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## **Celebrating Our Graduates – Annual Graduation Luncheon with the Commissioner Is July 26**

It's that time of year again to celebrate all employees who earned their Associate's, Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral degree between August 2016 and June 2017! **The annual Graduation Luncheon with the Commissioner** will take place on **Wednesday, July 26** in the Main Conference Room of 1101 Market Street between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. If you have earned a degree during this period, please join us as we celebrate your success and recognize your value to DBHIDS! **Your RSVP is requested by Friday, July 21.** To reserve your space, please contact [James Peterson](#).

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## Share Your Talents – Design the 2017 DBHIDS Recovery Walk Team T-shirt

Do you like to draw or design? If so, we have the contest for you! Help us develop this year's DBHIDS Team T-shirt for the 2017 Recovery Walk! Your design should prominently feature the DBHIDS name and include the OBH, IDS and CBH units. Submissions are due by **Friday, July 21** and may be submitted to any of the following team captains: Sean Brinda, Maria Chaves, Ramon Cruz, Shana Earland, Erica Gerald, Yvette Kamimura-Jones, Stephanie Mack, Suja Mathew, Sharon Thrower-Hill, Joann Mills-Johnson, and Amanda David. The winner of the T-shirt Design Contest will win a free shirt and a Visa gift card! If you would like to serve as a Recovery Walk Team Captain, please contact [Amanda David](#).

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## New Faces in our Trauma Transformation Unit

Please join us in welcoming **Ferrice Molina** and **Gertrude Kpollie** to the DBHIDS Trauma Transformation Unit!

**Ferrice** is the new Administrative Assistant who will support Trauma Transformation Unit Supervisor Ava Ashley. Ferrice has a wealth of experience serving in several capacities with the City of Philadelphia, including roles with the Philadelphia Police, Commerce, Fire, and Human Services departments as well as the Juvenile Justice Center. As the unit's Administrative Assistant, Ferrice will support work regarding project and organizational management. In her spare time, Ferrice enjoys spending time with family, travelling, learning new things (technology & research), gardening, entertaining and event/party planning. She is excited about the opportunity to play a key role within the unit and help DBHIDS overall.

**Gertrude** comes to us as part of the Mayor's Internship Program. She will be with the Trauma Transformation Unit through August 11 and will assist with several projects, including planning activities to support the World Health Organization theme for Global Depression, development of a Human Trafficking Needs Assessment for providers and of focus groups on stakeholder and community needs related to human trafficking. Gertrude is a senior at Temple University, where she is majoring in Public Health. She has spent time volunteering with the African Family Health organization, helping African and Caribbean immigrant and refugee children adjust to their new environment by assisting with their homework and providing educational workshops on bullying and Internet safety. Through interning with us this summer, Gertrude hopes to gain greater understanding and knowledge to help develop skills needed to best assist victims of trauma.

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## Recognizing Superior Performance – Nominate Someone Today!

Have you ever experienced a Direct Support Professional demonstrating a superior work ethic? Or, have you ever thought about the level of detail a Direct Support Professional must possess in order to get their job done well? If you answered yes, then this is your opportunity to recognize that person in a city-wide celebration.

The Philadelphia Intellectual disAbility Services Public Awareness Committee will host its **17th annual Points of Transformation Awards** on Thursday, Sept. 28. We invite you to celebrate the accomplishments of those who have committed their careers to supporting people with intellectual disabilities. We are committed to highlighting the accomplishments of those who demonstrate the meaning behind our logo - "It's all about community!" We look forward to hearing about the people you will nominate who are true role models and change agents. We are counting on you to nominate professionals because their level of commitment and compassion should not go unnoticed.

All nominees will be recognized at the annual celebration and we don't want you to miss out on the opportunity to celebrate the achievement of your colleagues. However, there will only be one nominee selected for the award in each category. When writing your nominations, please include as much detail as possible to help the nomination committee make their decisions. **Nominations will close on Friday, July 28, 2017, at 5 p.m.** Please submit all entries to [Wendy Williams via email](#) or U.S. Mail to Wendy Williams, Intellectual disAbility Services, 701 Market Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

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## In the News

On Thursday, DBHIDS sponsored an informational session on youth suicide in an effort to spread potentially life-saving advice. [Read more.](#)

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## Upcoming Events

### **October Ride for Recovery Ambassador/Captain Recruitment Meeting**

**Tuesday, July 11**

12 p.m. – 1 p.m.

801 Market Street, 7th Floor

BHSI Suite 7200 (Small Conference Room)

If you are interested in learning more about the October Ride for Recovery, please join us to get information on how you can get involved. To RSVP or get further details, please contact [Derrick Ford](#).

### **"Responding to the Opioid Crisis" Community Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 12**

6-7:30 p.m.

Prevention Point Philadelphia

2913 Kensington Avenue, Phila., PA 19134

Join us for a candid discussion on next steps following the successful completion of the Mayor's Task Force to Combat the Opioid Epidemic in Philadelphia. Community members are welcomed to attend and share concerns, ideas and suggestions to help us move forward in the fight against the opioid crisis. [Registration](#) is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. Light refreshments will be served. #PHLOpioids



**2017 LifeSharing Networking Day****Friday, July 14**

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Mermaid Lake

1002 Jolly Road, Blue Bell, PA 19422

Join us for the 2017 LifeSharing Networking Day, “*Community Exploration & Personal Enrichment*,” an exciting day of fun and fellowship! Admission is \$30 per person (ages 8 and up) and \$15 for children 2-8. Children 2 and under are free. The fee will be waived for DBHIDS staff who register to volunteer. However, guests of volunteers, including children, will have to pay. Volunteer arrival time is 8:30 a.m. and transportation will not be provided. For more information, please email [Cheryl Armbrister](#).

**Free Vision & Dental Clinics****Friday, July 14 and Sunday, July 16**

9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

North Church

1510 W. Oxford Street, Phila., PA 19121

The Adventists Medical Evangelism Network, a nonprofit network of physicians and dentists dedicated to providing free dental and medical care to those who are uninsured or under-insured. This is a first-come, first-serve opportunity to receive dental and vision services free of charge. No appointment is necessary for services, including fillings, cleanings, extraction, restorative work and eye exams and prescriptions. For more information, visit [thenorthchurch.is/healthfair](http://thenorthchurch.is/healthfair)

\*Medical, dental and non-medical volunteers are also needed!

**The Greater Philadelphia Trauma Training Conference: Envisioning Interprofessional Practice to Improve Outcomes for Children****Tuesday, July 18 – Friday, July 21**

Philadelphia University, 4201 Henry Avenue, Phila., PA 19144

A unique conference that provides intensive, discipline-specific trauma training, exposure to innovative practice models and applications, this conference aims to develop trauma knowledge and competencies among students, professionals, and paraprofessionals across child-serving disciplines, professions and workforce sectors, including:

- Medical / Healthcare
- Mental Health
- Young Child (0-5)
- K-12 Schools and Systems
- Juvenile Justice
- Child Welfare
- Philanthropy

[Visit the Eventbrite page](#) to learn more or register for this event.

**UrStorytellers: Storytelling Through Health and Wellness Community Event****Saturday, July 22**

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Cardinal Bevilacqua Community Center at Visitation

2646 Kensington Ave., Phila., PA 19125

Storytelling Through Health and Wellness is a community training facilitated by UrStorytellers in partnership with the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS).

This training has been approved as a required prerequisite for applicants who wish to become a Certified Peer Specialist. Our goal is to inform the recovery and faith-based communities on how to share their stories in addition to the importance of sharing them in community settings. This interactive four-hour training will satisfy the requirement for prospective certified peer specialists to receive a certificate of completion. [Register here.](#)

### **2017 Summer Institute on Community Inclusion**

**Monday, July 24 – Tuesday, July 25**

Temple University

The Temple University Collaborative on Community Inclusion invites you to join them on campus this summer to discuss the state-of-the-art science research findings about community inclusion of individuals with mental illnesses. This is designed for a broad audience – researchers, research users, state and county mental health administrators, peer specialists and peer-run programs, all of whom have the opportunity to learn more about the next generation of community mental health services and supports. Click [here](#) for more information.

### **Summer Screening Partners Learning Forum**

**Friday, July 28**

12:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Community Behavioral Health, 801 Market Street (11th Floor, Room 1154B), Phila., PA

Join members of the City of Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS) staff for an informative and engaging session on the behavioral health screening initiative. This is a great opportunity to hear about the DBHIDS' vision about population health and screenings, while receiving the latest data and information on behavioral health screenings, Pay-for-Performance and the best way to market screenings so more people throughout Philadelphia can be served and received the support they need.

*Presenters include:*

- Dr. Lawrence Real, DBHIDS Chief Medical Officer
- Dana Careless, Director of Health Promotion
- Andrea October, Clinical Project Manager
- Susanna Kramer, Program Evaluation Coordinator, Community Behavioral Health (CBH), a division of DBHIDS
- Andrea Diaz, Program Director of the Latino Treatment Program at COMHAR
- Ismael Alvarez, Division Director of Center-Based Services, Children's Crisis Treatment Center (CcTC)

[Register Here!](#)

*\*Lunch will be provided*



To have information about your area included in the July 2017 issues of *At Your Best: DBHIDS News*, please [email us](#) by **Wednesday, July 19**. If you have questions about this publication or ideas for future issues, please contact [Monica Lewis-Wilborn](#) at 215-685-5475.

For DBHIDS resources visit [bit.ly/DBHIDSResources](http://bit.ly/DBHIDSResources)  
[DBHIDS Team Highlights Archive](#)