



Dear DBHIDS Team,

As many of you are aware, the DBHIDS executive management team and I are currently preparing testimony for City Council on DBHIDS' Fiscal Year 2018 operating budget. We are also preparing testimony for public hearings to overview the impact of the proposed repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

If the Affordable Care Act or "Obamacare," is repealed, a significant number of Pennsylvanians could lose access to health coverage. This will have a devastating impact on many Philadelphians, specifically individuals accessing behavioral health services.



With political and fiscal uncertainty impending, anxiety in our nation, our state, and our city is particularly elevated. During this ambiguous time, I encourage you to remain focused and unwavering in your commitment of service to the people of Philadelphia. The city's leadership is committed to protecting the rights of all people. Despite this uncertainty, you can find solace in knowing DBHIDS remains committed to our vision and mission.

Over the last 10 years, DBHIDS has made great strides increasing service provision in Philadelphia's most vulnerable communities. We currently have initiatives and coalitions designed to provide greater access to behavioral health and intellectual disability services to minority groups, new Americans and LGBT communities.

After a brief speech at the Community College of Philadelphia in December, Mayor Jim Kenney stated, "We are not walking back on civil rights, we're not walking back on minority rights, we're not walking back on LGBT rights, we're not walking back on sanctuary city, we're not walking back on anything we've established to make our city progressive." DBHIDS will continue to implement the Mayor's vision as we continue moving our system forward to improve the quality of life for all Philadelphians; we need you to continue standing with us.

Provider Updates

As you may be aware our provider, North Philadelphia Health System, filed for bankruptcy protection in December 2016. NPHS provides drug and alcohol services and psychiatric care at

Girard Medical Center, at Eighth Street and Girard Avenue. NPHS will continue providing services to those referred to their programs for treatment. Any questions regarding NPHS can be directed to [Kehinde Solanke](#).

General Updates

The Warmline experienced a brief outage; however, this has been resolved. Please encourage people in need to use this wonderful supportive service. The Warmline is a nonjudgmental “listening ear” operated by trained Certified Peer Specialists for Philadelphia residents who are experiencing anxiety, depression, loss, stress, and other life challenges. Philadelphia residents in need can access the Warmline (available Monday through Friday, 4pm to 7pm) at 855-507-9276.

Alma Jean Taylor’s Retirement Party will be held on Feb. 22, 2017, from noon to 3 p.m. at Community Behavioral Health. If you would like to RSVP for the party please contact [Chandra West](#).



For DBHIDS resources visit: bit.ly/DBHIDSResources
Did you know? [DBHIDS Team Highlights Archive](#)