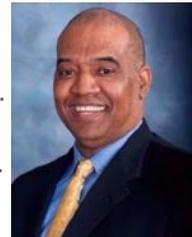




Dear DBHIDS Team,
Over that past several weeks, I hope you have found it valuable to receive regular communication from the executive office during our time of transition. I will continue to provide transparent, timely information on federal and local policy issues that may potentially impact DBHIDS and the individuals we serve.



Although awareness of federal and local policy is critical, having the same level of awareness regarding the changes and projects taking place within DBHIDS is equally essential. The leadership team and I urge you to collaborate with other divisions within DBHIDS, and find ways in which your work aligns with other parts of our system. Moreover, I invite you to frequently visit the [DBHIDS](#) website, which can serve as a resource for increased understanding of our work as a collective behavioral health and intellectual disAbility service system.

Next, I would like to provide an internal personnel update. As Acting Commissioner, I am excited to announce that [Monica Lewis-Wilborn](#) has joined the team as the Director of Communications. She brings to DBHIDS a breadth of leadership experience in communications from several prominent charitable organizations in the Philadelphia area. I am confident that Monica's areas of expertise, which include media relations, social media marketing, project and event management—and both public speaking and presentations—will advance not only the Communications Department, but all of DBHIDS. She will be sitting with the rest of the Communications team on the seventh floor of 1101 Market, so please stop by to meet her and join me in giving Monica a warm DBHIDS welcome!

Lastly, Alma Jean Taylor's Royal Retirement Celebration [photos](#) are now available. Enjoy!

Updates on DBHIDS initiatives & unique programs

- Did you know that DBHIDS has a very robust [Peer Culture and Community Inclusion Unit](#) (PCCI)? PCCI promotes peer culture and community inclusion through occupational wellness and technical assistance. This unit focuses on developing opportunities for people in recovery and their family members to have active leadership roles at all levels of the DBHIDS system. PCCI oversees Certified Peer Specialist Trainings, Individual/Family Story Telling Trainings, the First Friday Series, and a host of other innovative peer-led initiatives. For more information on the PCCI Unit contact [Sean Brinda](#), Manager of PCCI.

- What is the [Porch Light Program](#)? Porch-Light is a unique partnership between DBHIDS and the City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program. Porch-Light helps to create murals that focus specifically on mental health, substance use, intellectual disAbilities, as well as other issues that impact our wellness. Additional areas include faith and spirituality, homelessness, trauma, immigration, and community safety. On March 25, Porch Light will open a storefront location in the Kensington section of Philadelphia. At this neighborhood hub site, individuals in the community can participate in art-based activities designed to promote mental and social-emotional well-being. [Learn more about the Kensington Hub Site](#). For more information on the Porch-Light program contact [Anthony McLaughlin](#), Manager of Community Based Services Development Unit.
- [Faith and Spiritual Affairs](#) (FSA) and The Mayor’s Drug and Alcohol Executive Commission are pleased to sponsor the 11th annual Faith and Spiritual Affairs conference, “Have Faith in Recovery: Treatment and Recovery.” The conference will provide workshops and poster presentations from some of the foremost authorities in the addiction field. Topics will include evidence-based treatments, inclusion of spirituality as part of treatment, medication management, and family empowerment. [Register to attend the conference today](#). For more information on FSA contact [Mary L. Harper](#).

Featured Updates

- March is nationally recognized as Problem Gambling Awareness Month. Last week, Gov. Wolf signed a proclamation confirming the need to spread awareness. During the month of March, DBHIDS’ Office of Behavioral Health will host a social media campaign highlighting the myths and facts associated with problem gambling. They will also share blogs with our system in hopes of raising awareness. If you are a problem gambler and need help, call **1-800-GAMBLER** for free, confidential, and anonymous support. For more information on DBHIDS’ Gambling Initiative contact [Tamika Harvey](#).
- National Intellectual disAbilities month is also recognized in March. Below are the activities hosted by IDS:
 - **3/16:** [Communication Champions Meeting](#)
 - **3/31:** [Brighter Futures Awards](#)
- **Training Opportunity:** The Bureau of Autism Services is pleased to announce that registration is open for the spring 2017 Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Seminar for Professionals. Register for the statewide ***Autism Myths and Misconceptions: Evidence from Data, Research, and Experience*** training series. This training is appropriate for all professionals who are looking to increase their knowledge of and/or ability to support individuals with autism across the spectrum and lifespan. To register visit [MyODP.org](#)

David T. Jones
 Acting Commissioner
 Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services



Take a behavioral health screening, register for Mental Health First Aid training or invite DBHIDS to a community event at HealthyMindsPhilly.org
For DBHIDS resources visit bit.ly/DBHIDSResources
Did you know? [DBHIDS Team Highlights Archive](#)