



Dear Colleagues,

Greetings! It's hard to believe that we're nearly three months into 2018.

Undoubtedly, time is quickly flying by because of how busy we all are. There is so much happening within each division of DBHIDS and, as always, I am grateful for the hard work, time and energy that each of you are putting in to ensure that children, adults and families throughout Philadelphia are living healthier lives.

I'd like to use this message to provide a few updates, allowing you to get a glimpse of some of the innovative work taking place throughout our system:

DBHIDS Strategic Plan

In her new role as Executive Coordinator for Operations and Leadership, Dana Careless is coordinating our strategic planning process, collaborating with a diverse and talented team of internal and external figures. Once complete, the DBHIDS Strategic Plan will illustrate progress made as a department, focusing on our current state, but more importantly, outlining our vision and where we intend to go in providing treatment and services to those in greatest need. Of course, our plan will align with the vision and strategic plan of Mayor Jim Kenney and it will cement my vision in a way that will be easily understood by multiple stakeholders, including DBHIDS employees, community members, providers and city and state

legislators. Our Deputy Commissioner of Planning and Innovation Roland Lamb as the Executive Sponsor and Dana as the coordinator responsible for the official roll out, we intend to have the final draft of this plan ready for implementation by July 1, 2018. If you have any questions about the status of the strategic plan or if you believe you may have something to offer during this process, please feel free to contact [Dana Careless](#).

A Stronger Focus on Children and Families

Over the past several months, DBHIDS staff have been busy enhancing crisis services and supporting children and families, specifically our mobile crisis, mobile intervention, urgent care and Children's Crisis Response. Last fall, we had the soft launch of our Mobile Crisis Teams and last month, the new Philadelphia Children's Crisis Response Center (PCCRC) opened, being one of multiple options available to help children and their families access the support they need during a behavioral health crisis. As our work in these areas continue, we are pleased with the results. While our effectiveness is continuously being assessed, we know that, through January 2018, the Children's Mobile Intervention Service provided support to approximately 90 children and, between November 2017 and January 2018, our Children's Mobile Crisis Teams served approximately 130 children.

We continue to strive to ensure that services and supports provided are people-centered and engage not only the individual seeking services, but their natural and chosen supports as well. That is why, over the course of the next five years, we will continue to implement mobile and community-based services. Within the coming years, our children and family programs will be provided in the community, with a focus on resolving or ameliorating behavioral health episodes or family challenges so that children can remain in their natural settings. Kudos to all who are involved with this work. If you would like to learn more about these transformative approaches to treating those in crisis, please contact [Peter Bezrucik](#) or [Phillip DeMara](#) (mobile crisis work) or [Sabrina Nansteel-Bun](#) (PCCRC).

Implementing Change: Mayor's Executive Commission on Drug & Alcohol

When the Mayor's Task Force to Combat the Opioid Epidemic in Philadelphia delivered its final report and recommendations last May, part of the process included engaging the Mayor's Executive Commission on Drugs & Alcohol to help implement some of the 18 recommendations presented by the task force. We have had the great fortune of working closely with the commission, led by Jim Baker and consisting of a dedicated group of volunteers who understand the importance of treatment and support in the recovery process. In addition to hosting the annual Mayor's Executive Commission on Drugs & Alcohol's Making a Difference Dinner, the commission meets each month to determine how they can effectively partner with the City's efforts to address substance use disorder and increase the number of those in recovery. On March 14, the commission will host a forum to provide updates on the task force's recommendations and offer insight on how its members are supporting the work. For more information on this community forum or details on the 2018 Making a Difference Dinner, which will be held on Wednesday, June 6 at the Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue, please contact [Estelle Outterbridge](#), who is providing administrative support to the commission.

Immigrant Affairs: Creating Connections with Diverse Communities

Understanding that Philadelphia is made up of diverse communities, DBHIDS has been intentional with its efforts to ensure that there are no barriers for people who need access to behavioral health support and treatment. Our Immigrant Affairs and Language Access Services unit, led by Sarorng (Rorng) Sorn, has been engaging with various communities to improve the total wellness for immigrant and refugee communities through a holistic community-based engagement and service delivery approach. In addition to community forums, such as one held in South Philadelphia last month, Immigrant Affairs and Language Access Services will be hosting a series of listening sessions throughout this year to help us strengthen our engagement with immigrant communities, ensuring that we provide culturally and

linguistically appropriate services for refugee and immigrant communities with behavioral health concerns. This unit is also charged with maintaining the DBHIDS Language Access Policy, a set of protocol and procedures for staff to follow when providing services to individuals who have limited English proficiency (LEP). This is essential to the success of our mission to improve the health of Philadelphians in need of behavioral health and/or intellectual disability services. One major part of this policy is our mandate to adhere to the City of Philadelphia's policy to grant access to services or programs to every person even when there is a limited ability to speak, understand, read or write English. Our department remains dedicated to ensuring that ALL Philadelphians receive the support and treatment they need. If you have questions about this work or know of individuals or organizations that could help us with outreach to immigrant and refugee communities, please contact [Sarong Sorn](#).

Conversations with the Commissioner

On Tuesday, Mar 27, I will host another open "Conversation with the Commissioner" at IDS, 701 Market Street, 5th Floor, from 10:00-11:00 a.m. This is an opportunity to learn more about the direction of our department, and provide feedback to me directly as we discuss the direction for our Strategic Plan. As always, I look forward to hearing directly from staff about how things are going within your respective units. I truly appreciate all that you do and I am honored to lead such a talented and committed group of individuals.

All the best,

David T. Jones

Commissioner, Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services.



Need help planning and promoting an event/awareness day? [Start Here](#).
To request a Recovery Advocate's support or assistance [click here](#).

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.

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