



Dear DBHIDS Team,

First, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to my colleagues here at DBHIDS, and the City of Philadelphia for the outpouring of support extended to my family as we cope with the loss of my wife and life partner, Mrs. Susana Jones. The past few months have been difficult, but with each day my family and I gain strength. Your kind words of encouragement, messages, telephone calls, and donations to breast cancer research organizations have been greatly appreciated and continue to help us as we heal. I am thankful to have a compassionate and sincere work family, and I am especially thankful for the ongoing support of Roland Lamb, Sandy Vasko, Joan Erney, and the Executive Team during my absence. In addition to the demands of their existing roles, they have diligently carried out many critical tasks on behalf of the department. I am immensely grateful for their leadership and to each of you as you honor Philadelphians with your wonderful work! As I transition back into the office, I look forward to our continued work of improving the lives of people in Philadelphia.



Last Friday, May 19, the Mayor's Task Force to Combat the Opioid Epidemic, a group comprised of health experts, law enforcement officials, first responders, and community members, held a press conference at City Hall to present its final report including **18** recommendations to Mayor Jim Kenney after four months of Task Force meetings and community forums. During the press conference, Gov. Tom Wolf, Mayor Kenney, and other city officials expressed support for efforts to combat the opioid epidemic through enhanced prevention, education and treatment opportunities for those impacted by the opioid crisis. We are grateful for the work of the Task Force, and are excited to work with our partners on implementation of the recommendations. You can view the [full report and list of recommendations here](#).

As you may be aware, on May 4 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the American Health Care Act (AHCA) which is designed to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, also known as Obamacare. It will now move from the House to the Senate. Passing the AHCA would greatly reduce funding for healthcare and severely impact more than 200,000 Philadelphians who have gained access to healthcare including vital behavioral

health and intellectual disability services. We must continue to express the importance of ensuring that adequate resources addressing the health and well-being of those individuals with the highest needs are available. We must remain steadfast and consistent as we work collaboratively to protect vital health services for the people of Philadelphia.

Once again, I thank you for your continued efforts and support. It is my honor and a privilege to serve our system and the people of Philadelphia as DBHIDS' Acting Commissioner. You continue to prove that DBHIDS embodies its vision of a Philadelphia where every individual can achieve health, well-being, and self-determination. Keep up the excellent work team and again, thank you for the tremendous grace extended to my family. Philadelphia is truly the city of "Brotherly Love" and "Sisterly Affection."

David T. Jones

Acting Commissioner

Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services



Need help planning and promoting an event/awareness day? [Start Here.](#)

Take a behavioral health screening, register for Mental Health First Aid training or invite DBHIDS to a community event at [HealthyMindsPhilly.org](http://HealthyMindsPhilly.org)

For DBHIDS resources visit [bit.ly/DBHIDSResources](http://bit.ly/DBHIDSResources)

David T. Jones

Acting Commissioner, Department of Behavioral Health  
and Intellectual disAbility Services

1101 Market St., Suite 700

Philadelphia PA 19107

[David.T.Jones@phila.gov](mailto:David.T.Jones@phila.gov) (email)

215-685-6082 (office)

**Chantha Sin, Executive Assistant to:**

**David T. Jones, Acting Commissioner**

**Department of Behavioral Health**

**& Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS)**

**1101 Market Street, 7th floor - ARAMARK TOWER**

**[Chantha.Sin@phila.gov](mailto:Chantha.Sin@phila.gov)**

215-685-4985