



Dear DBHIDS Team,

It's with a humble heart that I greet you as the new Commissioner for the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services. I am excited to take on this role and I am especially excited to be working with such a talented, hard-working and compassionate group of people. In my years with DBHIDS, I have always been impressed with the work you all do and firmly believe that you are among the most dedicated professionals in the City of Philadelphia, perhaps even this nation and beyond!

Earlier this year, we chose a new mission statement for DBHIDS:

The mission of the Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services is to educate, strengthen and serve individuals and community so that all Philadelphians can thrive.

It's no secret that there is a lot of work for us to do in order to ensure that we achieve our mission. There are significant challenges impacting the lives of Philadelphians that we address daily, whether it's supporting vital mental health and substance use services to combating the despair of homelessness or advocating for equality for those living with intellectual disabilities. Our work matters because so many lives depend on it.

Day in and day out, we provide people with the highest needs access to resources, services and treatment designed to not just change their lives for the better, but in some cases, save their lives. Because of the work we do, people, across the life span are being given an opportunity to find their pathway to wellness.

Yes, there remains a great deal of work for us all to do, but I am up for the challenge and glad to say that I know each of you are prepared to carry out this work with me. Because of you, the 1.5 million people who call Philadelphia home can and will lead happier, healthier and whole lives; lives in which they can have limitless opportunities.

I look forward to meeting with each of you over the next few weeks to hear how we can move forward together. I'll be hosting "Brunch with the Commissioner" sessions each Thursday of August from 11 a.m.-12 p.m. This is an opportunity for staff to meet with me,

hear more about the vision for DBHIDS, and share thoughts about the future of DBHIDS. This will be very casual and refreshments will be provided. Please see the schedule below:

August 3rd at 1101 Market (Main Conference Room, 7th Floor)

August 10th at 123 S. Broad (23rd Floor Conference Center)

August 17th at CBH (Room 1154A)

August 24th at IDS (Main Conference Room, 5th Floor)

August 31st at 520 Delaware (7th floor, Large Conference Room)

I truly believe in the notion of having a servant's heart. This simply means that you not only put the needs of others ahead of your own, but you do so with the right motivation and, when it comes to our work, the best motivation is simply this – helping others get to a better place is just the right thing to do. I thank you in advance for joining me in having a servant's heart for those who truly need our help. In partnership with you all, I am honored to serve as DBHIDS' Commissioner.

David T. Jones, 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.

For DBHIDS resources visit bit.ly/DBHIDSResources.

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