



Dear DBHIDS Family:

Happy holidays, DBHIDS family! I can't believe that there are less than 10 days left in 2017. It's been a busy year for us all. A year full of change, challenges, and opportunities to be champions for some of Philadelphia's most vulnerable people.

We started the year off being an integral part of the Mayor's Task Force to Combat the Opioid Epidemic. Having seen how fast the opioid crisis had grown, it was imperative that we be a part of the conversation to try and figure out how to best address a situation that is taking upwards of 142 lives a day nationally, and crumbling communities. In such a short period of time, our staff gave a herculean effort and helped devise a plan to support those with substance use challenges. We trained hundreds of people on how to administer lifesaving Narcan.

Staff's soles hit the ground to help save souls and to assist with the clean-up of one of the city's more challenging area, offering hundreds of people access to resources and services to help combat their addictions. Yet while there has been a lot of work done, we know that there remains so much more to do. By year's end, it's projected that nearly 1,200 people will have died in 2017 due to opioid overdoses. This just means that we must work harder and smarter to meet people where they are and give them support on the road to recovery.

I'm most impressed that our work has moved to the next level, despite a season of change. For more than a decade, DBHIDS was led by a man I call the "Godfather of Behavioral Health" – Dr. Arthur Evans. I am so grateful for his leadership and vision and I'm honored to have been chosen to succeed him. His are big shoes to fill, but the transition has been made easier because of the talented, dedicated, and compassionate people who are making DBHIDS the impactful department that it is. So, I want to thank you for your continued delivery of high-quality service that has truly blessed children, adults, and families.

With the new year, more change will come our way. We'll welcome **Dr. Jill Bowen, our new Deputy Commissioner of Finance and Administration**. Dr. Bowen comes to DBHIDS with more than 30 years of experience in behavioral health services and management. She was most recently Senior Adviser for Mental Health, Strategic Policy Initiatives for the Office of the Mayor in New York City. An author and frequent lecturer, Dr. Bowen has also worked in private practice and served as a college professor. Her office will be in the Executive Management Suite on the 7th floor of 1101 Market Street. Please be sure to stop by and give her a warm DBHIDS greeting when she arrives on Monday, Jan. 8.

In closing, I want to offer my sincere appreciation for your outstanding work and acts of faith. Personally, it has been a year of extreme lows; however, your kind words and acts of support toward me and other Philadelphians inspire all of us to know recovery is real.

Yes, this has been a year of change and challenges, but there is no other group of people with whom I'd rather face what can also be described as opportunities for growth and greatness. Thank you for your service and best wishes throughout the remainder of this holiday season. Here's to a 2018 full of success, joy, solutions, and peace. I look forward to a brilliant 2018!

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

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City of Philadelphia



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).

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