



Ohio Department of Mental Health

30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3430

DATE: 4-1-08 NUMBER: C-04-08-01 ORIGINATOR & TITLE: Debbie Nixon-Hughes, Deputy Director

OFFICE:
Program and Policy Development

APPROVED BY:
Sandra Stephenson, Director

DISTRIBUTION:
 BHO's Boards Provider Agencies Shareholder Organizations

SUBJECT:
 Allocations Certification Community Plan Critical Information
 Licensure MACSIS Medicaid Policy
 Procedure Other (specify): Organizational Changes

TITLE OF CORRESPONDENCE: Program & Policy Development Organizational Changes

CONTENT:

I am writing to inform you of some initial organizational changes occurring within the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) that will affect external communications. Several weeks ago, we all learned about the need for statewide budget reductions and the effects those reductions would have on ODMH. Specifically, besides the consolidation of two state hospitals, it was announced that Central Office staff would be reduced by 20 percent. In response, all Deputy Directors were asked to review the operations of their Divisions both collectively and individually with the Director and Assistant Director.

Within the Division of Program and Policy Development (PPD), one major change is the reduction of the number of Area Directors from five to one. One AD will be retiring and one returned to her nursing position in the Toledo Behavioral Health Care Organization. Of the remaining three Area Directors, two will fill vacant positions within PPD. Dr. Carrol Hernandez, formerly the Area Director for the Southeast Region, will now serve as Assistant Deputy Director for Program and Policy Development.

Each of the community stakeholders is encouraged to work with Carrol and me or communicate directly with individuals within the department who possess the needed knowledge. In addition, requests for assistance can be submitted directly to a newly formed e-mail address, AskODMH@mh.state.oh.us . When staffing reductions are completed, I will send out an electronic version of an updated Department directory.

Director Stephenson and I share a strong belief that relationships between external stakeholders and the department should be formed and communication should flow at every level of organizational structure. In the future, our ongoing internal strategic planning process will examine our external communication strategy and determine what structure will best promote fluid communication between boards, providers, consumers, family members and the department. As a representative of one half of this communication model, you are also encouraged to submit suggestions on this topic to me directly or through the new e-mail address.

Thank you for your continued professionalism, dedication, understanding, and patience as the department continues to move forward strategically, efficiently, and with a focus to preserve critical services to the 300, 000 plus Ohioans we serve annually.

Should you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me by email at Nixon-HughesD@mh.state.oh.us or by phone at 614-466-9943.

cc: Cheri Walter, Ohio Assoc. of County Behavioral Healthcare Authorities
Terre Garner, Ohio Federation for Children's Mental Health, Inc.
Doug DeVoe, Ohio Advocates for Mental Health
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