



Ohio Department of Mental Health

Press Release

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Medical Director named for Department of Mental Health

(Columbus) Sandra Stephenson, MSW, MA, Director of the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH), today announced the appointment of Marion E. Sherman, M.D., as Medical Director for the cabinet-level agency, effective October 20. In this role, Sherman will provide clinical supervision to the medical and psychiatric staff of Ohio's seven regional psychiatric hospitals. She will also advise the ODMH director on matters related to recruitment, research, community mental health plans, and licensure of private hospitals and residential facilities.

Sherman has extensive experience in both clinical management and direct patient care. She is licensed by the Ohio State Medical Board and certified in general psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, and forensic psychiatry. For the past 11 years, she served as Chief Clinical Officer at Twin Valley Behavioral Healthcare, the ODMH hospital system that serves central Ohio. Sherman was also Chief Medical Officer for the Ohio Hospital for Psychiatry in Columbus, where she established inpatient and outpatient services to children and adolescents. She serves on the faculty at both The Ohio State University School of Medicine and the Ohio University College of Osteopathic Medicine.

"I am pleased that Dr. Sherman will bring her nationally recognized leadership and extensive clinical background to the Department," said Director Stephenson. "Her knowledge of our system and commitment to promoting mental health for all Ohioans will enhance our ability to deliver quality services to communities statewide. Her board certification in child and adolescent, as well as general and forensic psychiatry, will be a real plus for the department and ensure that we represent issues across a broad age spectrum."

"I look forward to balancing the direct service needs of a vulnerable population with indirect leadership in the community," Dr. Sherman said. "I will endeavor to create new approaches that move Ohio toward innovative, culturally competent and empowering services that people can realistically access."

Sherman's medical degree is from Case Western University School of Medicine in Cleveland. She also holds a master of business administration from New York University and a bachelor of arts from Williams College in Williamstown, Ohio. Sherman is past president of the Ohio Psychiatric Association, a member of Multiethnic Advocates for Cultural Competence, Columbus, and a former president of the Torch Club of Columbus. In 2005, she founded psychiatric services at the Columbus Medical Association Physicians Free Clinic and currently practices at the clinic. She has written and presented extensively on mental health treatment issues.

ODMH's mission is to promote and establish mental health as a cornerstone of health and wellness for individuals, families and communities throughout Ohio. The Department's major responsibilities are to fund and monitor local systems of care, provide quality inpatient services, improve mental health linkages to the criminal justice system and provide quality community services that improve the mental health of Ohioans at all stages of life. Approximately 300,000 people access services annually.

The Department operates seven regional psychiatric hospitals, serving 6,000 patients annually. These facilities provide comprehensive services to patients in both an inpatient and community-supported environment. All are fully accredited by the Joint Commission.

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