



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

CHARLES BELL, M.D.
INTERIM COMMISSIONER

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October 20, 2006

Dear Mental Health Transformation Partner:

Thank you for your participation in the Transformation Work Group (TWG) meeting on October 16, 2006. At the last TWG meeting, the Transformation Action Plan (Comprehensive Mental Health Plan) submitted to the grantor (SAMHSA) was reviewed. One of the TWG consumer representatives, Mike Halligan, told of his personal experience with the public mental health system. Mike's story and the components in the initial Plan drove a rich discussion about the TWG's priorities for legislative recommendations. These recommendations will be submitted in a report due on November 1, 2006 to the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, which is charged with conducting a study and making recommendations for improving the delivery of Texas mental health services.

The next Texas TWG meeting is scheduled on Friday, November 3, 2006 **from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** in the Board Room (Rm.739) **at the Robert D. Moreton building of DSHS, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, TX. 78756.** At this meeting, Dr. Silvestri will present on activities in other countries related to transformation priorities including integration of primary care and mental health, early intervention, and anti-stigma initiatives. Additional discussion will focus on implementation of workgroup activities, workgroup charges and timeframes. As always, an update on Consumer Voice activities will be provided and one of the TWG consumer members will share their personal story.

In preparation for the upcoming TWG, please review the attached draft agenda and minutes from the last TWG meeting. The minutes are forthcoming on Tuesday, October 24, 2006.

Feel free to visit the MH transformation website at : <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mhtransformation> for information on federal and Texas transformation activities and documents. As always, we look forward to your feedback on how this website is working to keep you. Requests to post information on the website may be sent via e-mail to: Wendy.Andreades@dshs.state.tx.us or Ellen Trevino at Ellen.Trevino@dshs.state.tx.us or by phone at (512) 458-7111, ext. 6085.

If you have questions, or suggestions for any upcoming agenda, please contact me directly at 512-458-7376 or via e-mail at dave.wanser@dshs.state.tx.us.

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming meeting of the Texas Mental Health Transformation Work Group. Thank you in advance for your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dave Wanser Ph.D.".

Dave Wanser, Ph.D.
Chair, Texas Mental Health Transformation Working Group
Deputy Commissioner for Behavioral and Community Health Services

cc: Heidi McConnell, Governor's Office
Rudy Arredondo, Ed.D., New Freedom Commissioner and State Health Services Council Chair
Nancy Speck, Ph.D., New Freedom Commissioner
Deanna Yates, Ph.D., New Freedom Commissioner
Charles Bell, M.D., Interim Commissioner, Department of State Health Services