March 3, 2017

Dear Stakeholder:

We have listened to an array of stakeholders regarding the importance of the Service Area Planning process. In response, the Department of Human Services' Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DHS-OMHSAS) is seeking broad participation in Service Area Planning (SAP) meetings across the state in April and May 2017.

For each meeting, we have asked the hospital CEOs to work with their respective teams, county partners, and other stakeholders to develop a presentation that provides information regarding their region’s needs, goals, and plans for the future.

In addition to regional goals, we will discuss in greater detail our broader, state-wide goals for the next three years, which are to:

- Increase by at least 10 percent the use of permanent supportive housing for individuals being discharged from a state hospital to a location other than their family home;
- Expand employment initiatives and opportunities for individuals being discharged from state hospitals to community-based settings; and
- Develop access to Assertive Community Treatment (ACT), Community Treatment Team (CTT) services, Hospital Based Extended Acute Care (EAC) capacity, and other services to divert individuals from community inpatient and state hospital placements and decrease reliance on state hospital level of care.

At each meeting, we will share information about the OMHSAS Olmstead Plan and provide updates about key initiatives, including efforts to improve Pennsylvania’s forensic mental health service system. The SAP meetings will also provide you, our stakeholders, with an opportunity to provide us with feedback and to share your comments and concerns.

The meeting schedule for each state hospital is attached for your reference. We hope you can join us as our service area partner in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Dennis Marion
Deputy Secretary