



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**

Health and Recovery Services Administration  
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Olympia, Washington 98504-5502

December 28, 2009

Dear Stakeholder:

Last fall, Secretary Susan N. Dreyfus, Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS), asked us to look for new ways of doing business and to brainstorm on ways to achieve a more complete integration of our services for better delivery and enhanced quality. Secretary Dreyfus and Doug Porter, Assistant Secretary, Health and Recovery Services Administration (HRSA), shared a vision for a future in which primary medical care, chemical dependency treatment, and mental health services would be completely integrated at our clients' first point of contact with the health-care system.

Instead of today's hierarchy of services and separate delivery mechanisms, we were asked to look ahead to a time when person-centered health homes will represent the standard encounter with our agency and its services.

After several months of staff discussions within HRSA about how we could reorganize internally to help manage these changes, we effectively recreated two divisions where three had previously existed. We created a new Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery (DBHR) under Director David Dickinson, combining the Division of Alcohol and Substance Abuse (DASA) and most of the Mental Health Division's (MHD) headquarter functions. In addition, managed care contracting elements of those divisions were moved to the managed care medical section of the Division of Healthcare Services (DHS), headed by Director MaryAnne Lindeblad.

Next, we took these discussions into the real world of health care, with town hall meetings in Pasco, Mt. Vernon, Olympia, and Spokane. First, TriWest Group reviewed and organized previous work conducted in the state over the last six years, and identified more than 600 recommendations in 66 reports regarding mental health and substance abuse services. These findings were presented to nearly 300 representatives of consumer groups, families, providers, health plans and advocacy organizations at these regional forums, and served as the starting point for discussions structured around four key policy areas:

- How could the concept of person-centered health homes work in Washington State?
- How can we integrate the funding streams for children's health-care services?
- How can we expand access to evidence-based practices?
- Can local matching funds help supplement resources and leverage additional state and federal funds?

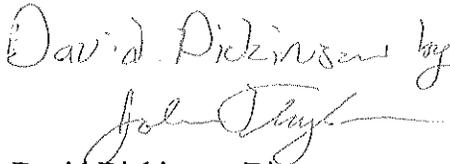
These discussions were illuminating and inspiring – and they continue. Andy Keller of TriWest, who moderated the town hall meetings, compiled a report on the results and themes that emerged from these forums; these results will also serve to guide our next steps.

You can find Andy's report posted on the Transformation Grant Web Site at <http://mhtransformation.wa.gov/mhtg/articles/20091209.shtml>. We welcome your interest and ideas. You can offer comments on the Web page itself, or you can share them with our staff through Juno Whittaker at [juno.whittaker@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:juno.whittaker@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,



MaryAnne Lindeblad, Director  
Division of Healthcare Services



David Dickinson, Director  
Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery