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July 1, 2010

TO: The Honorable Jonathan A. Harris  
The Honorable Elizabeth B. Ritter

Members of the Public Health Committee

FROM: Michael P. Starkowski, Commissioner  
Department of Social Services

Patricia Rehmer, Commissioner  
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

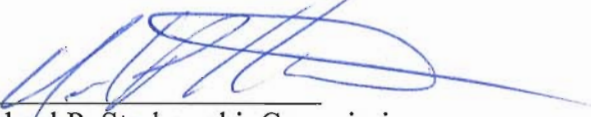
RE: **The Mental Health Waiver Annual Report for SFY 2009**

In accordance with the provisions of Section 17b-8 of the Connecticut General Statutes, we are pleased to submit to the Human Services and Appropriations Committees of the Connecticut General Assembly the first annual report for the Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver for Adults with Serious Mental Illness. This waiver was designed to divert or discharge people with psychiatric disabilities from nursing home care. This waiver was submitted in accordance with Public Act No. 06-188, state legislation authoring the development of the waiver in the 2006 Regular Session of the Connecticut General Assembly and then codified under Section 17b-602a of the general statutes.

We are pleased to submit this annual report as a collaboration and partnership between Connecticut Department of Social Services (DSS) and Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) as the waiver represents a shared vision and commitment to Home and Community Based Care for persons with serious mental illness.

The Mental Health Waiver, approved by The Center of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in April 2009, enables participants to receive psychiatric and medical services and supports for independent living in the community. Using a Person Centered Recovery planning process, participants have a full menu of psychiatric rehabilitation available to assist with community living.

From this past year, the limited Quality Assurance data suggests the Mental Health Waiver is having a positive impact on participants' lives. We are committed to the proactive roles the Departments are taking in developing innovative and effective policies and programs to promote and provide valuable services to support individuals with severe mental illness in the community.



Michael P. Starkowski, Commissioner  
Department of Social Services



Patricia Rehmer, Commissioner  
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services