

Mental Health Workforce Coalition

February 9, 2010

The Honorable Pamela Hyde
Administrator
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
1 Choke Cherry Road
Rockville, MD 20875

Dear Administrator Hyde:

As members of the Mental Health Workforce Coalition, we write to congratulate you on your nomination and confirmation as Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) within the Department of Health and Human Services. We commend you on your lifelong dedication to public health care and human services, and look forward to working with you as you lead SAMHSA in addressing the substance abuse, prevention, addiction, and mental and behavioral health needs of all individuals living in the United States. We are particularly encouraged by your commitment to ensure that behavioral health is considered as part of the larger health care system and your plans to make SAMHSA a champion for prevention and wellness. This type of innovative and forward-looking leadership is just what our nation needs in order to combat, treat, and prevent mental health problems and substance abuse.

Given your extensive experience in the health care and human services fields for over 30 years, we are delighted to know that you deeply understand how critical it is to have a workforce that is specially trained to address the unique needs facing individuals and families, or caretakers of individuals, suffering from mental health problems and substance abuse. As health professionals, we must ensure that the workforce is robust, sustainable and diverse, enabling culturally competent services to all populations.

One way SAMHSA has sought to address the need to develop a sustainable health care workforce is through the long-standing and highly successful Minority Fellowship Program (MFP). The MFP was designed to help reverse the disparities that exist in mental health services and improve the quality of those services to minority populations through the training of minority mental health professionals. This continues to be an important program as the mental health needs of ethnic minorities in the United States have been, and continue to be, grossly underserved.

Evidence has shown that ethnic and racial minority mental health professionals practice in underserved areas at a higher rate than non-minorities, and a direct positive relationship exists between the numbers of ethnic and racial minority mental health professionals and the utilization of needed services by ethnic and racial minorities. In your leadership at SAMHSA, we hope you will continue to support this critically important program, which has been instrumental in the recruitment and training of underrepresented groups in the fields of substance abuse and mental health.

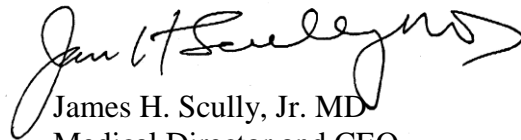
We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss ways that we can assist you in advancing the mission of SAMHSA and nurture a diverse and robust mental health and substance abuse workforce. Please contact Wendy Naus (wendy@lewis-burke.com) at your earliest convenience, when your schedule allows you to meet with us.

Once again, we congratulate you on your new position and wish you success in this critical new role. We look forward to working with you on this and other important issues impacting SAMHSA.

Sincerely,



Norman Anderson, PhD
Chief Executive Officer
American Psychological Association



James H. Scully, Jr. MD
Medical Director and CEO
American Psychiatric Association



Linda Schwallie, MS
President
American Association for Marriage and
Family Therapy



Ira C. Colby, DSW, LCSW, ACSW
President
Council on Social Work Education



Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR
President
American Nurses Association

Mental Health Workforce Coalition

Member Contact Information

Andrew Austin-Dailey
American Psychological Association
adailey@apa.org

Annie Toro, JD
American Psychological Association
atoro@apa.org

Kenneth Hardy, PhD
American Association for Marriage and
Family Therapy
kvh24@drexel.edu

Brian Rasmussen, PhD
American Association for Marriage and
Family Therapy
brasmussen@aamft.org

Lizbet Boroughs
American Psychiatric Association
LBoroughs@psych.org

Annelle Primm, MD, MPH
American Psychiatric Association
aprimm@psych.org

Jenny Jones, PhD
Council on Social Work Education
jjones@cswe.org

Wendy Naus
Council on Social Work Education
wendy@lewis-burke.com

Faye Gary, EdD, RN, FAAN
American Nurses Association
fgary@case.edu, fxg21@case.edu

Janet Jackson
American Nurses Association
Janet.jackson@ana.org

Kristen Kroeger
American Academy of Child & Adolescent
Psychology
kkroeger@aacap.org

Elizabeth Rorick, JD
American Academy of Child & Adolescent
Psychology
erorick@aacap.org