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Thomas A. Kirk, Jr., Ph.D.,  
Commissioner

### **“Yes, we can ... Yes, we will ... We the people”**

On January 20, 2009, each one of us will be witness to a most historic event...the inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America. Its significance traverses the entire world and causes other nations to view us through a new lens, one that sheds the darkness of past discrimination and opens the door to a more united America.

This historic event is also very personal, touching each of us in our own way. Regardless of an individual's political affiliations, the American people seem to be uplifted by this new day in our history. There is a sense of looking forward with new hope for a better future.

Even though winter is upon us in full force with its repeated snow falls, ice storms and the record-setting cold, and economic forecasts continue on their downward spiral, many of us are energized with a sense of renewal. We must tap into that energy to focus on doing the best job we possibly can for the people of Connecticut in these challenging economic times.

In an interview for the DMHAS Office of the Commissioner Newsletter, employee Noelle Miano said that her favorite quote is Robert F. Kennedy's famous words, *"Some men see things as they are and ask why? I dream dreams that never were and ask why not?"*

Let's remember these words as we wrap ourselves in the new hope for change that is now so prevalent. What greater inspiration can we have to guide us in facing the challenges we face?

You can be sure that the eyes of the world are upon us as we embark, under the leadership of soon-to-be President Obama, on the incoming administration couched in hope and change. His mantra, "Yes we can," imparts a confidence in **We the People**.

Closer to home, I am acutely aware that the eyes of the thousands of Connecticut citizens we serve are looking to our Governor, M. Jodi Rell, our legislators, and we at DMHAS for our continued leadership to ensure that the essential core health care and recovery support services that they depend upon for a decent quality of life are there for them and their families.

With that mandate in full focus, I ask every one of you to join me in the DMHAS public/private healthcare system to bring your energy and a renewed sense of hope with the confidence that, working together, "Yes we can" ...put aside the clutter of the unimportant and focus our undivided attention on what is most important—helping people to live better lives.

Comments are welcome at [Thomas.kirk@po.state.ct.us](mailto:Thomas.kirk@po.state.ct.us).