

Message from the
Office of the Commissioner

March 27, 2008

M. Jodi Rell, Governor



David Crompton
Chief Financial Officer

“CHANGE”

Bob Dylan – “The Times They Are A Changin’ ”

The sentiments above are at the forefront of my mind as I prepare to retire on March 31, 2008. These quotes are memories of the sixties. I have spent 33 years working for the people of Connecticut; 27 years with the Department of Mental Health and its successor agency—the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services; the last 20 years as its Chief Financial Officer. Based on these numbers, one could easily ask—where’s the change? It lies behind the scenes where most of my work has occurred.

In 33 years, I have worked for 31 Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners in three different state agencies spanning five different governors. In FY 1981, when I started with DMH, our contract funding consisted of \$15 million in general fund appropriations (mental health and addictions) for private non-

e.e. cummings
–“to grow is to change
and to have grown
often is to have
changed much”

profits (PNP’s). Today, we spend more than \$147 million for general fund contracts with PNP’s. We moved from an institutional driven care system to a community-based system. Addiction Services was part of DMH, split off and re-united. Psychiatric hospitals were closed in favor of community-based care. We changed from serving persons with serious and prolonged mental illness or persons with substance use disorders to an agency that also includes services for those with acquired brain injuries and gambling disorders. We have refocused programming to address young adults, gender specific services, services for trauma victims, returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan and

changed to recognize the “co-morbidity” of psychiatric illnesses and substance use disorders.

I do not take credit for these changes. I was merely one small cog among many who were a part of them. As I move on to a new phase of my life, it is important to acknowledge that none of my accomplishments are mine alone. However one measures my success, it is a result of those who have worked for me and with me over all these years. Sadly, some are no longer with us, many have retired and the rest carry on the tasks with new employees added to the mix.

I could not count the number of persons who have worked for me directly and indirectly—mostly behind the scenes—to make sure that the Department’s obligations were met. My heartfelt thanks to those of you who have purchased supplies, paid bills, written and reviewed thousands of contracts, performed audits, processed service information for billing, prepared countless budgets and financial reports, designed and overseen construction projects, maintained schedules and much more, not just in my office but also in the facilities, in our contracted agencies and our sister state agencies. Rarely does anyone sing your praises, but without you little would be accomplished. We should all be proud of what we have done and what you will continue to do. I feel fortunate to have worked with all of you.

Embrace change; it is inevitable.