

Scott Walker
Governor



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Kitty Rhoades
Secretary

DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

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May 21, 2014

Joann Stephens
W7897 Eagle Avenue
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Dear Ms. Stephens:

On behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse (DMHSAS) and the Wisconsin Council on Mental Health (WCMH), I would like to thank you for your outstanding service to WCMH. Since joining WCMH in 2005, serving for three terms, your assistance and participation has contributed to improving the lives of the residents in the State of Wisconsin. In those 9 years, you have twice been council vice-chair and done an exceptional job. I would like to personally thank you for your work on the Council, serving on the Criminal Justice Committee. Not only did you serve on the Criminal Justice Committee you have been the chair of the Criminal Justice Committee for a number of years as well. The work done in that committee has made a significant impact on the lives of Wisconsin Citizens who find themselves involved in the criminal justice system and are working to improve their lives while also working to move forward on their recovery journey. It has been your leadership on the council and the committee, which has moved many initiatives forward including opening the discussion about use of peers in correctional settings and in the community forensic programs. You have also been very instrumental in furthering the discussion concerning Trauma Informed Care throughout the state.

We are truly grateful for your dedication and willingness to lend your knowledge, time, and resources to help improve mental health policy and treatment throughout the state. We will miss your contributions and personal perspective on the mental health needs of Wisconsin citizens.

You have served as a tireless advocate on behalf of individuals living with mental health issues, have become involved, and accepted nearly every request made of you to participate on Advisory Committees, workgroups and sub-committees. On behalf of DMHSAS, I want to personally thank you for the advice and counsel you have provided concerning the recent Governor's Budget initiatives and their implementation. Your suggestions, cautions and wisdom are extremely helpful and will be missed.

We hope that you remain apprised of WCMH and its work. Again, many thanks and on behalf of the Department of Health Services and the Council, we wish you all the best.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Linda A. Harris'.

Linda A. Harris
Administrator