



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MISSOURI
JEFFERSON CITY
65101

MATT BLUNT
GOVERNOR

STATE CAPITOL
ROOM 216
(573) 751-3222

March 28, 2008

Marian K. Scheinholtz
Public Health Advisor
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
1 Choke Cherry Rd, 6-1010
Rockville, Maryland 20857

Dear Ms. Scheinholtz:

On behalf of the state of Missouri, I am pleased to submit Missouri's first Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

In October, 2006 I accepted a 5 year grant award from SAMHSA's Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant program to develop and implement a comprehensive plan to transform the mental health system in Missouri. Through executive orders 06-39 and 07-15, I established the Mental Health Transformation Working Group (TWG) to carry out this charge. Over the past year, through the actions of the TWG, hundreds of Missourians participated in the development of this plan. Six workgroups, comprising nearly 240 content experts, were chartered and 14 public hearings were held across the state. The voice of consumers and families was prominent in shaping the state's mental health priorities.

What has resulted is a shared vision, common agenda and initial roadmap for action to transform mental health care in Missouri. The Comprehensive Plan for Mental Health will move Missouri toward a public health approach-one that is driven by the needs of Missouri citizens, grounded in best practices, and designed to improve the overall health and well-being of Missouri's communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Blunt". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Matt Blunt