

December 3, 2009

Pamela Hyde
Administrator
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
1 Choke Cherry Road
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Ms. Hyde,

On behalf of the 1,700 mental health and addiction treatment organizations that are members of the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare, I am writing to congratulate you on your appointment as the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Your selection for this important role fills us with much hope for the future.

As you know from our recent conversations, the National Council's commitment to improving the lives of individuals with mental health and substance use problems continues to be at the very core of our mission. By advocating for policies that promote high-quality mental health and addiction services, we hope to realize our vision of a holistic health care system that meets the diverse needs of consumers and their families.

We recognize that much work still needs to be done to achieve this vision: aligning Federal and State funding policies to encourage collaborative relationships between primary care and behavioral health providers, continuing to further our understanding of practice innovations and the impact on health outcomes, increasing access to culturally-competent care for veterans and their families and much more. I want you to know that the National Council stands ready to partner with you and staff at SAMHSA on future projects that will further our understanding of the health care system and the needs of individuals with mental health and substance use problems.

Under separate cover we will be sending you an overview of the policy and practice work that the National Council is engaged in. We look forward to meeting with you soon after you assume your new responsibilities. Please let me know if there is anything that I or the National Council can do to be helpful to you.

Warm Regards,



Linda Rosenberg, MSW
President and CEO