



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH AND ADDICTION SERVICES
A Healthcare Service Agency

DANNEL P. MALLOY
GOVERNOR

MIRIAM E. DELPHIN-RITTMON, Ph.D.
COMMISSIONER

MEMORANDUM

To: Sue Niemitz, CEO, CRMHC; Michael Sernyak, CEO, CMHC; Bob Cole, CMHC; Celeste Cremin-Endes, CEO, RVS; Rick Callahan, CEO, SMHA; Alicia Feller, CEO, SWCMHS; Deb Lawrence, CEO, WCMHN; Helene Vartelas, CEO, CVH; Hal Smith, CEO, Whiting Forensic Hospital

From: Ellen Boynton, Director
Office of Multicultural Health Equity (OMHE)

Marlene Jacques, RN, MSN, MPH, LMSW, Director
DMHAS Deaf or Hard of Hearing (DHOH) Program

Cc: Miriam E. Delphin-Rittmon, Ph.D., Commissioner; Barbara Bugella, RN, MSN, MBA, Assistant to the Commissioner; Evette Hecht, Director DMHAS Fiscal Services Bureau

Date: October 12, 2018

Subject: **ROLES CLARIFICATION AND THE OFFICE OF MULTICULTURAL HEALTH EQUITY**

This is to notify DMHAS state-operated facilities, divisions/units/offices that Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon has asked Ellen and me to send out a reminder of our formal roles and responsibilities under the Office of Multicultural Health Equity.

As you know, the functions of DMHAS Office of Multicultural Health Equity is to enhance the delivery of DMHAS services for mental health and substance use disorders in a way that acknowledges the impact of individual differences on client treatment, differences such as race, ethnic or cultural background, age, gender, sexual orientation, and physical or mental status, including communication and social protocol.

The Deaf Community views deafness as a culture and considers **deafness** as a trait, rather than a **disability**. Consistent with that view, DMHAS places the DMHAS DHOH Program under the Office of Multicultural Health Equity.

As such, the organizational structure is as followed:

- Ellen Boynton, Director, Office of Multicultural Health Equity. Ellen receives direct supervision from Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon.
- Marlene Jacques, Director, DMHAS DHOH Program. Marlene receives direct supervision from Commissioner Delphin-Rittmon.

Please, direct all DHOH issues (interpreters and other concerns/inquiries) to Marlene Jacques.

Thank you.

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