

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. (2003-10-23) 3-03

**THE OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
AND MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the City provides a continuum of behavioral health and mental retardation services to Philadelphia's most vulnerable citizens through its Office of Mental Health/Mental Retardation (OMH/MR), Coordinating Office for Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs (CODAAP) and Community Behavioral Health components;

WHEREAS, behavioral health programs within OMH/MR, CODAAP, and Community Behavioral Health have been brought together and are collectively known as the Behavioral Health System;

WHEREAS, the services provided by and through these components include case management, community residential, vocational and other supports, and a wide range of inpatient and outpatient treatment options;

WHEREAS, the City through its Behavioral Health System and Mental Retardation programs provides coordinated and effective mental health and drug and alcohol treatment services to approximately 100,000 adults and children and supports 12,000 persons with mental retardation each year;

WHEREAS, the combined \$1 billion annual budget to fund these services is larger than that of any City department;

WHEREAS, these components currently collaborate on a range of functions including fiscal and administrative oversight of programs and services, policy analysis and planning, quality improvement, licensure endorsement, monitoring of treatment providers, and authorization of services;

WHEREAS, consumers and families have advocated for and played a critical role in unifying these components to better meet their needs;

WHEREAS, unifying behavioral health programs into the Behavioral Health System has already realized substantial savings as a result of more effective coordination of funding streams and allowed for the reinvestment of \$32 million in expanded behavioral health services since 1997; and

WHEREAS, to continue to improve effectiveness and efficiency in the coordination of the provision of such services in the City of Philadelphia and to formally recognize the structural changes that have occurred it is necessary to establish an office with generalized supervisory authority over such programs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John F. Street, by the power vested in me as the Mayor of the City of Philadelphia, do hereby order as follows:

Section 1. Establishment Of The Office Of Behavioral Health And Mental Retardation Services.

The Office of Behavioral Health and Mental Retardation Services ("OBH/MRS") is hereby established. OBH/MRS shall be headed by the Director of OBH/MRS, who shall report to the Managing Director. Upon the effective date of this Order, all personnel in the City's programs under the responsibility of OBH/MRS shall report to OBH/MRS. Effective July 1, 2004, such personnel shall become employees of that Office.

Section 2. Purpose Of OBH/MRS.

The purpose of OBH/MRS is to oversee and coordinate the City's behavioral health system and the mental retardation services provided by the City, both directly and by others through contract with the City.

Section 3. City Programs Within The Authority Of OBH/MRS.

The Director of OBH/MRS shall oversee and have responsibility for the following City programs and services:

- ◆ Mental Health Services;
- ◆ Mental Retardation Services;
- ◆ Substance Abuse and Treatment Services provided by the Coordinating Office for Drug and Alcohol Abuse Programs ("CODAAP");
- ◆ The City's participation in the HealthChoices Behavioral Health program; and
- ◆ Such other behavioral health/mental retardation services as may be undertaken by the City, as designated by the Managing Director.

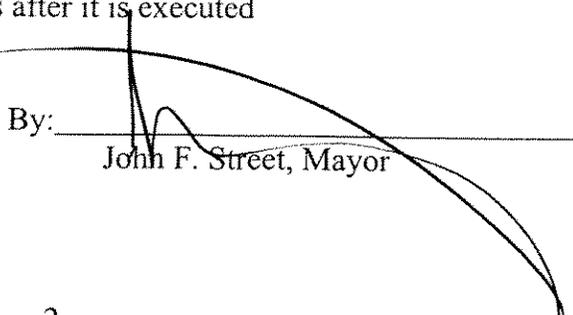
Section 4. Transfer of Supervisory Authority From Department Of Health To OBH/MRS.

The Health Commissioner is hereby directed to transfer authority for supervision of the services provided by the Office of Mental Health and Mental Retardation and CODAAP to the OBH/MRS.

Section 5. Effective Date.

This Order shall take effect 60 days after it is executed

Date: Oct. 23, '03

By: 
John F. Street, Mayor