

**Dennis R. Jones**  
**Office of Dixon Court Monitor**

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February 10, 2009

Stephen T. Baron, Director  
Department of Mental Health  
64 New York Ave, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Re: Exit Criterion #13 – Provision of Services to Adults Who Are Chronically Homeless and Mentally Ill and Exit Criterion #16 – Provision of Services to Children and Youth Who Are Homeless

Dear Mr. Baron,

I have reviewed your letter of January 13, 2009 regarding Exit Criterion #13 – Provision of Services to Adults Who Are Homeless and Mentally Ill and Exit Criterion #16 – Provision of Services to Children and Youth Who Are Homeless. The January 13, 2009 letter was reviewed along with prior letters regarding these two Exit Criteria of April 24, 2008, May 15, 2008 and August 8, 2008.

The common element for both of these Exit Criteria is the Court-Ordered requirement for a Comprehensive Strategy for Mental Health Services to the Homeless. I have reviewed the final version of the Comprehensive Strategy of January 13, 2009 and find that it clearly meets the test of providing a comprehensive approach to mental health services for both homeless adults and children/youth. It connects the DMH strategy to the overall District's approach to serving the needs of the homeless. The comprehensive strategy recognizes that, as service needs change, the specific services will also need to change. The DMH provides a clear statement of on going commitment to provide "a range of services to homeless individuals and families as they struggle to end homelessness."

Exit Criterion #13, in addition to the comprehensive strategy, requires that a minimum of 150 consumers who are chronically homeless and seriously mentally ill will be engaged by a DMH approved provider in its Housing First initiative. DMH has documented services via Pathways, which is a major Housing First provider, of 157 persons. Hence, DMH has met the Court-approved performance level for #13. For #16 – Services to Children and Youth Who Are Homeless – the DMH is required to engage at least 100 children/youth who are

homeless within a one-year period. DMH has documented the engagement of 110 children and youth during the period of January 1, 2008 - October 31, 2008. Thus DMH also meets the Court-approved level for #16.

The Court Monitor hereby finds that DMH has met the two-fold performance requirements for both #13 and #16. It is recommended to the Court that both of these measures move to inactive status. DMH is required to continue to report to the Court on both of these measures. In this instance, said reporting should also include future updates and changes to the Comprehensive Strategy.

Sincerely,



Dennis R. Jones MSW, MBA,  
Dixon Court Monitor

Cc: Anthony Herman  
Iris Gonzalez  
Jennifer Whitfield  
Steve Baron  
Anne Sturtz ✓

DRJ/rjs