



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, MENTAL RETARDATION AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES

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May 24, 2005

Charles G. Curie, M.A., A.C.S.W., Administrator
A. Kathryn Power, M.Ed., Director, CMHS
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
1 Choke Cherry Road
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Mr. Curie and Ms. Powers:

I am writing to express the full support of the Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services for Virginia's application to SAMHSA's *Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant* program. As described in the proposal, this Department has led a major restructuring of Virginia's public mental health system since 2002. While we, and our partners, have made great strides in this effort, there is an immense amount of work yet to be done.

Our hope is to create a mental health system that promotes self-determination, empowerment, resilience and recovery for people with mental illness and their families. These grant resources will help us achieve that goal. We intend to move forward in full partnership with consumers, parents and families, and other stakeholders as we advance this vision. Commissioner James S. Reinhard, M.D., is poised to lead Virginia's transformation effort as Chair of the Transformation Working Group. There is no better person than he to accomplish this task.

We hope SAMHSA will look favorably upon this proposal, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Raymond R. Ratke
Deputy Commissioner

CC: The Honorable Jane H. Woods
James S. Reinhard, M.D., Commissioner