

July 18, 2011

As Director of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)/Division of Mental Health (DMH) I was honored and pleased to host, "**Beginning the Conversation: A Statewide Policy Summit on Advancing Bidirectional Behavioral Health and Primary Care Integration**" in Chicago, IL on June 22, 2011. I would like to thank our Department of Human Services Secretary Michelle Saddler for her leadership and our partners, the DHS/Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse (DASA), the Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) for their support and collaboration in making the Summit a success and in promoting integrated care.

Because of your contributions, I believe the goals of the Summit were achieved by bringing together a diverse group of healthcare providers, all of whom share our mission to assume bidirectional integrated care delivery within local communities. Throughout the day, formally and informally, the Summit jumpstarted the discussion and strategic planning among primary care and behavioral health providers and policymakers. I heard your resounding call to continue the discussions needed to further activate collaboration across our State.

We have added several *new* items to the Summit website: <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=55312>  
Here you will find in the "Related Links" section:

- A "Final Summit Agenda and Workbook" ;
- A list of all in-person "Summit Participants";
- Videos of the entire day at "Summit Speaker Presentations – Web Links";

A "Summary of Small Group / Technical Assistance Recommendations" plus a "Summary of Summit Evaluations" will be added to the website shortly.

We are considering developing a series of focused follow-up meetings. If you haven't already done so, please complete the Summit Evaluation Form to assist in that planning for future events. Go to <http://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?module=17&item=56074&surveyid=190>

Please continue to send your comments and suggestions to Michael S. Pelletier via e-mail at [Michael.Pelletier@illinois.gov](mailto:Michael.Pelletier@illinois.gov)

Again, thank you for joining us for the Summit and for your important contributions to its success.

Lorrie Rickman Jones, Ph.D.  
Director DHS Division of Mental Health