



Senator Martin Looney
Representative Claire Janowski
Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee
Room 1000
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Ct. 06106

January 18, 2011

Dear Senator Looney and Representative Janowski,

I am pleased and honored to submit this letter of recommendation on behalf of Patricia Rehmer to be named the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health and Addictions Services (DMHAS). I have known Ms. Rehmer for over fifteen years and have worked closely with her in her various roles with the state and in the private sector. Ms. Rehmer brings a wealth of knowledge, both academic and practical, to her current position as the Commissioner of DMHAS. Prior to joining state government, Ms. Rehmer provided clinical and administrative leadership to the programs of the Institute of Living/Hartford Hospital. She then joined the state as the CEO of Capital Region Mental Health Center. In both positions Ms. Rehmer applied her clinical knowledge and administrative capabilities to create well organized and efficient systems of care for individuals suffering from serious mental illness and addiction disorders. It did not take long for then Commissioner Thomas Kirk to recognize Ms. Rehmer's leadership capacity and she joined the central office team to assist with the federal transformation grant and eventually was named Deputy Commissioner. Ms. Rehmer has served as Commissioner since Dr. Kirk's departure.

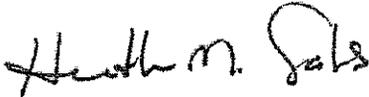
As the President/CEO of Community Health Resources I have had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. Rehmer on a number of public policy issues as well as the implementation of new initiatives. CHR is a Local Mental Health Authority and in that capacity we work closely with the Department as well. As a Commissioner Ms. Rehmer has demonstrated exceptional knowledge of the service system and the needs of those who come to us for help. She is very grounded in the most recent thinking on effective practices while at the same time being cognizant of the challenges facing providers and those whom we serve. Her ability to implement innovative approaches within the context of a challenging funding environment is excellent. Ms. Rehmer has a vision for the behavioral health system that is informed by best practice, data, fiscal realities and day to day experience.

Ms. Rehmer's leadership style incorporates the ability to make tough decisions while at the same time remaining flexible and adjusting course when needed. She listens to concerns and is willing to engage in productive conversations that contribute towards the improvement of services. Ms. Rehmer is always focused on the individuals and families who need help which guides her decision making. In the short time that Ms. Rehmer has been Commissioner she has made significant improvements to the delivery of services. She has brought greater definition of services purchased by the Department and has implemented greater accountability. Ms. Rehmer's success in these initiatives has been driven by a collaborative approach, clear expectations, and on-going communication. These skills will be put to good use in the next several years as the state comes to terms with its fiscal reality. Common sense and communication will be critical skills, and Ms. Rehmer is in possession of both.

As an individual Ms. Rehmer operates with a strong sense of ethics and deep compassion for the mission of the Department. She is a person of integrity, well grounded in the common goal of helping to improve the lives of individuals struggling with mental illness and addiction disorders. She will be a tremendous asset to the Malloy administration and the state of Connecticut, but more importantly to those whom we all seek to serve.

If you need any further information please do not hesitate of contact me at 860-731-5529 or by e-mail at hgates@chrhealth.org.

Respectfully Submitted,



Heather M. Gates
President/CEO