



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH &
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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BETTS NAMED PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Nashville—Virginia Trotter Betts, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Mental Health & Developmental Disabilities, was recently named President of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors. Betts was elected Vice-President in July 2007 having represented the Southern region on the NASMHPD Board of Directors since 2005.

NASMHPD organizes to reflect and advocate for the collective interests of state mental health authorities at the national level. The organization conducts environmental scans in the delivery and financing of mental health services and builds and disseminates knowledge and experience reflecting the integration of public mental health programming in evolving healthcare environments. Carlos Brandenburg, will be retiring in February as Nevada's mental health administrator leaving a vacancy in the office of President. Maryland's Commissioner Brian Hepburn was will remain as Secretary, and Virginia's Commissioner James S. Reinhard continues as Treasurer.

"We look forward to Commissioner Betts' leadership as President of NASMHPD," stated Robert W. Glover, Ph.D., Executive Director of NASMHPD. "She brings a wide range of expertise to this role: clinical care; federal and state policies; and financing strategies. Her past blend of experiences and her leadership will significantly contribute to further strengthening our relationships with the National Governors' Association, the National Council of State Legislatures, and other partners to improve mental health services."

In her post as TDMHDD Commissioner, Betts serves as leader of the State's public mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities authority charged with planning for and promoting an array of services from prevention to recovery for all Tennesseans. Betts has focused the department's resources and programs on quality clinical care and on recovery through a focused commitment to bring science to service and promotion of evidence-based practices in treatment and prevention. TDMHDD provides direct services to clients at the State's five Regional Mental Health Institutes; contracts with Tennessee community providers for prevention and treatment services; and oversees the mental health and substance abuse service package, delivery, and quality of care services to TennCare enrollees.

For more information on The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities please visit www.state.tn.us/mental. For information on the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors go to www.nasmhpd.org.

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