



**Detroit Wayne
Mental Health Authority**

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DATE: APRIL 14, 2017
TO: DWMHA PROVIDER NETWORK, ADVOCATES, COMMUNITY PARTNERS
FROM: TOM WATKINS, PRESIDENT AND CEO
MEMO: Resignation of Tom Watkins

I wanted to reach out and let you know that I have decided not to accept my Board of Director's offer to extend my contract with the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (DWMHA). My last day will be August 31, 2017. I'd like to share with you the letter (provided below) that I provided to our Board Chairman, Dr. Herbert Smitherman.

I want to extend my thanks and appreciation for the great providers, advocates and community partners who work tirelessly giving a voice to the voiceless. Together we have made significant strides in service to people in need.

I look forward to the great things that you all have yet to achieve for the people we serve throughout Detroit and Wayne County. It has been an honor to work with you.

< [Letter to Dr. Smitherman](#) >

I take great pride in the accomplishments of our team since becoming an Authority nearly four years ago. By any measure, we are a significantly better and more functional organization that has continuously strived to be:

- Consumer and community focused
- Data-driven and
- Evidence-based

We have paid off tens of millions of dollars in legacy debt, generated tens of millions of dollars in new revenue, increased direct care staff wages by over \$2 an hour, acquired a more professional work environment, integrated SUD services into our system of care- saving over \$4 million in administrative cost, standardized provider rates, successfully rebid our system of care, established 23 crisis mobilization teams, trained thousands of first responders and others in mental health first aid training, saved over 30 lives with our Naloxone First Responder training, received national recognition from the National Council of Behavioral Health for our Mental Health First Aid Training and recently by NAMI for the production of two award-winning, anti-stigma documentaries; "Opening Minds Ending Stigma-- all the while we have engaged consumers and built strong community partnerships throughout Detroit and Wayne County.

The improvements to both operations and service are remarkable and universally acknowledged.

Review our Annual Report (http://dwmha.com/files/2814/7940/6323/Annual_Report_2015-2016_Website_Copy.pdf) with its many accomplishments and acknowledgements by such luminaries as

Board of Directors

Herbert C. Smitherman, Jr., MD, Chairperson
Marsha Bianconi
Constance Rowley

Dr. Cheryl Munday, Vice-Chairperson
Angelo Glenn
Dr. Iris Taylor

Bernard Parker, Treasurer
Timothy Killeen
Terence Thomas

Dr. Cynthia Tauog, Secretary
Frank Ross
Heather Underwood

Thomas Watkins, President/CEO

Governor Rick Snyder, Lt. Governor Brian Calley, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Nick Lyon, the honorable Freddie G. Burton, Jr., Chief Judge of Wayne County Probate Court, Mayor, City of Westland William R. (Bill) Wild, President and CEO of the Detroit Regional Chamber, Sandy Baruah and countless other community partners and you will see that we have added significant value and made a difference.

We have done so because of our exceptional team and community partners.

While I originally accepted a three-year contract that was extended an additional year and I appreciate the Board's confidence expressed in offering me yet another contract extension while we explore a new contract, I have decided to resign when my present contract expires August 31, 2017.

Be assured, I will work with the Board and our great staff to facilitate a smooth transition between now and August 31, 2017.

I have appreciated the opportunity to build and lead an exceptional team as we transitioned the fledgling Wayne County Mental Health Agency into a vibrant Mental Health Authority.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Tom Watkins

The Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (DWMHA) is the largest and most diverse CMH system in Michigan. We are committed to being consumer and community focused, data driven and evidence based. Through programs and services that utilize promising best practices we hope to promote a community that is supportive and embraces individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance use disorder. We offer supports in Infant Mental Health, Integrated Healthcare, Supportive Housing, and Recovery to support self-determination and improving the health and quality of life for nearly 80,000 consumers and their families.