



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

DAVID L. LAKEY, M.D.

COMMISSIONER

November 9, 2012

To Behavioral Health Stakeholders:

On behalf of the Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) Council, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your participation in the Rider 71 stakeholder meeting on November 1, 2012. It was the Council's intent to provide an opportunity for stakeholders to inform us of your opinions about the recommendations found in the PCG report.

Rider 71 provided a unique opportunity to assess the current behavioral health system at DSHS and identify areas where improvements can be made in access, service utilization, consumer outcomes and systems efficiencies. The areas covered in the report, and public input may serve as the foundation for future planning efforts and potential system changes focused on best practices as well as appropriate regional needs and workforce issues.

We realize that, as with any report of this type, there are many opinions about the feasibility of the recommendations. Despite these disparate views, we appreciate the common vision we all share to ensure that Texans with mental illness and substance use disorders receive quality services that improve clinical outcomes and contribute to wellness and recovery.

The information you provided was invaluable in understanding your perspectives on each of PCG's recommendations. Thank you for your contributions to the stakeholder meeting, and for your continued commitment to consumers of mental health and substance abuse services in our State.

With Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Glenda Kane".

Council Chair,  
Mrs. Glenda Kane

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William Lovell".

Council Member,  
Reverend William Lovell