



*The Commonwealth of Massachusetts*  
*Executive Office of Health and Human Services*  
*Department of Mental Health*  
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**MARCIA FOWLER**  
Commissioner

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December 31, 2014

William F. Welch  
Senate Clerk  
Office of the Clerk of the Senate  
State House, Room 335  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Mr. Welch:

Attached please find the report to the Legislature from the "Special Commission to Investigate the Expansion and Enhancement of the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Access Website", Chapter 258 of the Acts of 2014, Section 44. This legislation required the Department of Mental Health to convene a Special Commission to make recommendations on ways to improve provider, carrier and public search capabilities to locate inpatient beds and services to make appropriate referrals for individuals with mental health and substance abuse needs in real-time. The legislation named nine members to be represented and designated the Commissioner of the Department of Mental Health or designee as its Chair. I appointed Eleanor Shea-Delaney, Assistant Commissioner for Program Development and Interagency Planning to Chair the Commission on my behalf.

Representatives on the Commission were engaged and committed to the tasks set out by the Legislature and the report was unanimously approved by the members. The recommendations demonstrate the thoughtful approach to addressing the important issue of access to inpatient care, and also underscores that there is a greater need to address systemic difficulties beyond expansion and enhancement of the Access Website for sustained and meaningful improvement.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marcia Fowler".

Marcia Fowler  
Commissioner

cc: Members of the Special Commission to Investigate the Expansion and Enhancement of the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Access (MABHA) Website