



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Committee for Public Counsel Services
Mental Health Litigation Division
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STAN GOLDMAN
DIRECTOR

TO: Mental Health Counsel
FROM: Stan Goldman, Director
Mental Health Litigation Division
DATE: July 20, 2011
RE: Mental Health Litigation Division Restructuring

As you no doubt know by now, the FY 2012 Appropriation Act directs CPCS to assume responsibility for 25% of all assignments, across all practice areas. After much deliberation, we have concluded that the most efficient way to meet this statutory obligation in the mental health area, while continuing to provide our clients with the highest quality representation, is to employ staff attorneys to represent clients in all admission and commitment cases emanating from select facilities across the commonwealth. To that end, Commitment Units will be established to handle cases out of Worcester State Hospital, Taunton State Hospital, the Suffolk County DMH facilities & McLean Hospital, and the several private facilities in Springfield. The Worcester, Suffolk County/McLean, and Springfield Units will be directly lead by newly hired Supervising Attorneys, while overall administrative supervision will be provided by Robert Weber, Director of Commitment Units (Bob will also serve as Attorney-in-Charge of the Bridgewater State Hospital and Taunton State Hospital Units). Assignments in guardianship proceedings will not be affected under this new organizational structure.

We also will be hiring a staff attorney, to be supervised by Karen Talley, to assist in our monitoring, mentoring, complaints-investigation, etc. efforts, and to provide additional support and assistance to all of you.

We understand that this reconfiguration will have an adverse impact on many of you, substantially so for some. Please keep in mind that CPCS did not ask for or support this legislation, but given the statutory mandate, we're convinced that this makes the most sense administratively and, more importantly, for our clients.

Finally, we take very seriously the legislative directive that currently-certified attorneys are to be given priority in hiring for these positions. This restructuring will only work – and our clients will only be well-served – if we are able to attract the very best attorneys. We encourage you all to consider applying for these positions, links to which can be found on the CPCS "[Employment Opportunities](#)" website page.