

May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010

Good afternoon Barry,

I just came from the first (monthly) MHMR Directors meeting that was chaired by Shari. I did not want the sun to set without letting you know that she was inspirational! In the first hour of the meeting she laid out a leadership direction beginning with a masterful articulation of her values and those guiding principles she will support within human services. The list of values were rooted in our rich heritage as a community, and were woven together into a narrative that inspires hope for the future and an immediate sense of trust in a new direction.

Shari's first meeting was such a perfect example of civic leadership. I told her publically and then again privately how moved I was to hear such a marvelous sense of purpose and resolve to do the right thing for the right reasons. You would have been so proud to witness the new level of discourse she created. Her comments were not just about values and an explicit warranty to live those values in her new role, but she also included very concrete action steps that will be taken in the coming months. Those steps demonstrated how much she knows about our community, the provider network, and what has and has not worked well for our citizens. In short, it sure looks like little time will be wasted on the learning curve.

I walked out personally feeling more joy and hope than I have had for a number of years about our capacity to pull together as a community and do the right thing. There is never a good substitute for great leadership and she inspired a number of us, that we will witness those attributes in her!

It feels like the "perfect hire", thanks buddy!

Bill McCarthy  
Executive Director  
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