

# DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

State of Mississippi

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Wendy D. Bailey - Executive Director

October 26, 2021

MS Families as Allies  
840 East River Place, Suite 500  
Jackson, MS 39202  
Attn: Dr. Joy Hogge, Executive Director

Dear Dr. Hogge,

Thank you for your in-depth public comments regarding the Mississippi Department of Mental Health's Mental Health Block Grant application. I greatly appreciate the time you devoted to providing this feedback. It has been reviewed in detail by the Executive Director and the DMH Leadership Team, shared with the Board of Mental Health at the October 21 meeting, and will also be shared on the DMH website.

Moving forward we want to be transparent and responsive to the public comments we receive. Many of the items you addressed are areas we intend to focus on in the future, one in particular, and one of the first you mentioned in your feedback, is technical assistance for our Planning and Advisory Council. We want to enhance both the participation and role of this Council over the next year.

The Mental Health Block Grant plan focuses only on activities and services funded by the block grant funds. There are many other service provisions and programs throughout the state that are funded outside of the block grant that are not included in the application. We share in the goal of sustaining meaningful and comprehensive mental health services for people throughout our state. We appreciate your input and are working to continue to develop strategic partnerships and coordination of services to improve access to care with a transparent goal of strengthening a statewide infrastructure.

Again, I want to thank you for taking the time to provide the valuable feedback and assure you it has been reviewed and shared. I am hopeful we can continue to strengthen our partnership and open communication as we move forward.

Sincerely,  
*Mallory L. Malkin, Ph.D.*  
Mallory L. Malkin, Ph.D.  
Chief Clinical Officer  
Bureau of Behavioral Health Services