



Department of Health
and Human Services

Maine People Living
Safe, Healthy and Productive Lives

John E. Baldacci, Governor

Brenda M. Harvey, Commissioner

Department of Health and Human Services
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Dear Provider:

Most of you are familiar with the Department's efforts, in the form of the COSII (Co-occurring State Integration Initiative) project, to promote greater integration of care for those with multiple, complex conditions.

Part of that effort involves a requirement that all people presenting for service be screened for the presence of multiple conditions. The COSII project has piloted several different standardized tools for achieving that goal. The attached report provides the results of those pilots and outlines pilot agency reactions to the study. We thought you would find this information helpful and enlightening.

In the next months, the Department will be contacting you regarding new policy and procedures related to screening for co-occurring conditions. We hope to implement a screening protocol by July 1, 2009. We are working to minimize any administrative burden posed by these new requirements and will partner with APS on their implementation.

Along with the changes to regulatory language, contracts, and other administrative structures already accomplished through COSII, we look forward to this further enhancement of our capacity and yours to effectively address our goal of providing seamless, appropriate, integrated care for all who need it. As our Integrated Services Policy states, "integrated services will lead to the increased capacity of the people of Maine to enjoy safe, healthy and productive lives."

Sincerely,

Brenda M. Harvey
Commissioner

BMH/klv

cc: Muriel Littlefield, Deputy Commissioner, Integrated Services
Ron Welch, Director, Office of Adult Mental Health Services
Guy Cousins, Director, Office of Substance Abuse

Claudia Bepko, Project Coordinator, COSIG