



### **National Mental Health Commission**

### Ministry Of Health

Frank Walcott Building, Flodden, Culloden Road, St. Michael

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November 19, 2012

Dear Mental Health Champions,

Let me begin by expressing my sincere thanks to you on behalf of the entire Commission for your support during Mental Health Month. For the first time, we were able to place all of the Mental Health activities on the new website. I regret that your invitation to the opening service may have arrived somewhat late, but as we say ‘a good time was had by all.’

On October 19th, we were delighted and honoured to have the Minister of Health present for our first sitting as a new Commission. In his brief presentation, he affirmed the work being done to bring Mental Health issues closer to the community and pledged his continued support. He was present with us again during our meeting November 16th to lend support as we outlined our plans for the new term of office.

In looking to the year ahead, there are two proposals which we would like to share with you and ask for your support. The first is a plan to partner with the Department of Government, Sociology and Social Work of the UWI Cave Hill Campus. What we are proposing is to offer a special prize for the best research paper or thesis on an area relating to mental health. This allows a significant research component to be attached to any major project we undertake. Here is where you can be of immense help; if each champion can devise a means of being innovative in contributing to the prize, it would make this project very attractive and worthwhile. You may set a fixed annual target and solicit your company or organization to pledge that amount or raise it from donations or projects. Every pledge, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated!

The second proposal is intended to address the possibility of a consistent flow of funds for Mental Health Projects. As is being done with the drive by the Alzheimer’s Association, we are proposing to place donation bins at our air and sea ports of entry. With the right promotion, we anticipate a very generous response from visitors.

My commitment to you is that I will stay in contact and on a quarterly basis, communicate information on the work of the Commission and general mental health issues via the website. In response, I hope that you will feedback your concerns, suggestions and updates by the same medium.

Yours Sincerely,

Marcus G. Lashley

Rev. Dr. Marcus G. Lashley

Chairman