

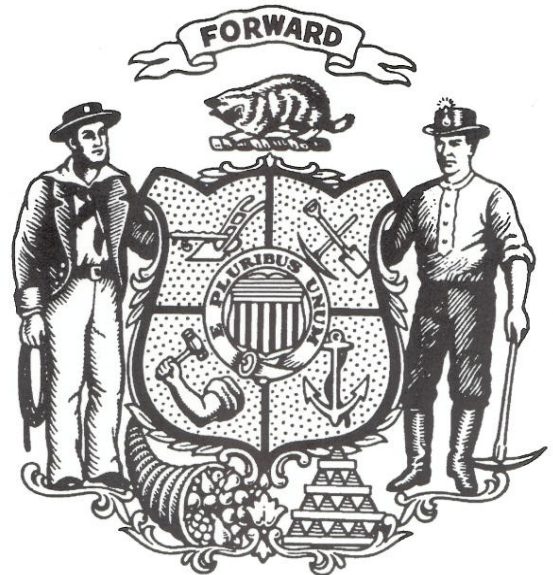
The Blue Ribbon  
Commission  
on Mental Health

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**FINAL REPORT**

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



**SUBMITTED TO GOVERNOR  
TOMMY G. THOMPSON**

◆  
**APRIL 1997**

Blue Ribbon Commission on Mental Health Care

May 2, 1997

Peter DeSantis  
Commission  
Chair, and  
Chair of the  
Systems Design  
& Finance  
Committee

Governor Tommy Thompson  
Room 115 East  
State Capitol  
Madison WI 53702

Re: Submission of the Final Report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Mental Health  
Care

Karen Robison  
Deputy Chair  
& Committee  
Chair

Dear Governor Thompson:

It is with great pride and respect that I submit to you the final report of the Blue Ribbon  
Commission on Mental Health Care.

Doug Johnson  
Committee  
Chair

This was a very unique Commission, consisting of forty members who represented all of  
various stakeholders. They worked diligently, gave a tremendous amount of their time, and  
we all found the process to be a great learning experience. We struggled at times, but we all  
concluded that we have a lot of good things in our present system, but that we can do better.  
Change must occur in an orderly manner for we cannot maintain the status quo. Above all,  
the consumers' outcomes must drive the system.

I am especially grateful to Karen Robison, Vice Chair, Doug Johnson, Committee Chair, the  
Commission's Facilitator, Connie Firoz, and the Bureau of Community Mental Health's  
Sinikka McCabe, Damien Wilson, Chris Hendrickson, and Sally Haveman.

We believe that the basis of this report, if accepted and implemented, will again place the  
Wisconsin mental health system as the national leader.

Sincerely,



Peter DeSantis, Chair  
Blue Ribbon Commission on Mental Health

cc: Members, Blue Ribbon Commission