The President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health held its second meeting in Washington, D.C., July 17-19. Chaired by Dr. Michael Hogan, Ohio Commissioner of Mental Health, the Commission has a different focus from the Surgeon General’s Report on Mental Health. The Surgeon General’s Report on Mental Health sought to review and summarize the scientific information related to mental health. The President’s New Freedom Commission will focus on service delivery issues and make recommendations for improving the overall service delivery system.

The July meeting included invited presentations about children’s mental health by Dr. Bob Friedman, Director of the Research and Training Center for Children’s Mental Health and Chair of the Department of Child and Family Studies at the University of South Florida, and Ms. Velva Spriggs, Director of Child and Youth Mental Health for the District of Columbia and a family member. While the Commission is focused on all age groups, members showed considerable interest in child and family issues. The Commission plans to devote its entire September meeting to children’s mental health. The location for this meeting is not yet determined.

More information on the Commission is available through its website at: http://www.mentalhealthcommission.gov/ Also available through the website is Dr. Friedman’s power point presentation and invited presentations on quality of care, and evidence-based practice.

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