



DEPARTMENT FOR THE AGING

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Edwin Méndez-Santiago, LCSW
Commissioner

September, 2007

Dear Colleague:

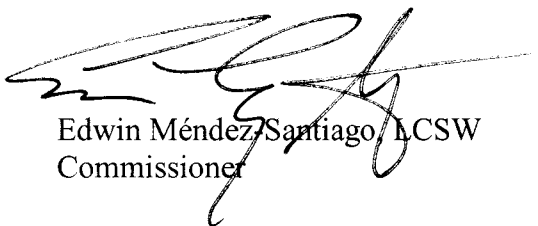
I am pleased to share with you the New York City Department for the Aging's **Annual Plan Summary** for **2008-2009**. This Plan provides a valuable opportunity for the Department to share its goals and objectives with the aging network. A series of public hearings on the plan provide forums for consumers, community partners, advocates, and other interested parties to give the Department feedback and suggestions on critical issues that impact the elderly of New York City.

I strongly encourage you to attend or testify at one of our five public hearings (please see the plan for the schedule). I am particularly interested this year in eliciting viewpoints and receiving recommendations on the following key areas of concern:

- *What strategies can the Department and the aging network take to strengthen the infrastructure of DFTA funded programs as we modernize aging services in New York City?*
- *How can DFTA help the community refine the senior center model?*
- *How can DFTA promote and support the aging network in developing and maintaining safe, livable and affordable communities for seniors?*
- *How should DFTA redesign its provision of key services including home delivered meals, case management, NORCS, and other services?*

If you are unable to attend one of the hearings, please feel free to submit written comments. The Department welcomes your input and values your expertise. All comments will be carefully considered and after the public hearings in October 2007, the Department will prepare an executive summary of comments, the DFTA response, and written testimonies will be available on the agency website. I look forward to learning from you as you share your insights and ideas.

Sincerely,



Edwin Méndez-Santiago, LCSW
Commissioner