

Joint Press Release



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Innovative mental health care to assist Hurricane Choir Mental Health Project

Sentiens is an Australian disease management company that specialises in mental health care and chronic disease management. We provide systems to improve health care through monitoring, education and therapy as well as the capacity for communication with clinicians and between health services.

We became involved with *The Hurricane Choir Mental Health Project* by invitation, to undertake a very unique intervention - the assessment and monitoring of the choir members. This project has great value to many people in that volunteers assist choir members to undertake mental health assessments and monitoring.

The choir, a combination of over a thousand hurricane survivors and local residents, will sing on May 21, 2006 in a massive outdoor multi-media performance on the steps of the Louisiana State Capitol with its second performance scheduled for June 3 at the River Center in Baton Rouge. They hope to perform in New Orleans and Lafayette in June as well.

Sentiens, the **University of Western Australia** and the **Mental Health Association in Louisiana** (MHAL) has joined forces with Meader's Hurricane Choir to assist in a groundbreaking study to monitor the results of group singing on people's mental health.

Sentiens has committed its innovative Mental Health/Disease Management platform which consists of a mental health assessment and health monitoring programs to choir members who wish to participate in the initiative.

According to Yakima K. Black, Executive Director of the Mental Health Association in Louisiana, "The Hurricane Choir Project will not only promote mental health through singing, but will unite communities in an effort to bring forth social cohesion. We appreciate Sentiens' support and hope this demonstrates the importance to policy makers of establishing community partnerships in order to assist mental health needs of our state. We can no longer afford to provide healthcare in silos. Community collaboration is imperative!"

"This project has massive implications for the management of disorders (including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, Depression and Anxiety) worldwide. Interventions of this kind can supplement traditional health care delivery and allow high volume involvement of whole communities in projects of hope and spiritual sustenance," stated Dr Dennis Tannenbaum, Sentiens consultant Psychiatrist and Executive Chairman.

For any further information, please contact Michael Fieldhouse (Sentiens) on 08 94811950 or email michaelf@sentiens.com or for more specific information regarding the mental health project, please contact Dr Robin Harvey (Research and Development Manager, Sentiens - robinh@sentiens.com) or Dr Nick Abraham (US Research Coordinator - nabraham@abrahamgroup.com).

For Immediate Release