

**OMHSAS Children's Bureau Update**  
**October 19, 2010**

**Early Child Initiatives**

- Collaboration with OCDEL on Mental Health Consultants in Early Care and Learning Centers;
- Also, with OCDEL, we are implementing a Heinz Endowment Grant to provide training for staff in 8 agencies to provide Parent Child Interaction Therapy;
- The first four agencies to be selected are:
  - Child Guidance Resource Center
  - Friendship House
  - The Guidance Center
  - Community Services Group
- We are working on a Bulletin that clarifies the availability of relational codes in lieu of a diagnosis for determining medical necessity for young children.

**System of Care**

- We have a 6 year, \$9 million grant from SAMHSA to develop Systems of Care in 15 counties to serve youth with behavioral health challenges in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems;
- The State Team includes OCYF, JCJC, PCCD, Governor's Commission, BDAP, and an equal number of youth and family representatives;
- The five counties selected to be in year one are Chester, Erie, Lehigh, Montgomery, and York. The System of Care Partnership will provide technical assistance to three additional counties that submitted letters of interest.

**RTF Regulations**

- The RTF Regulations combine health and safety, program, and billing requirements;
- They would eliminate the "non-accredited" option, require more intensive treatment, limit the size of facilities, and require family participation;
- We expect that there will be broad support, as well as significant challenges.

**Act 62**

- While many of the operational issues have been resolved, there remain several problems that are being addressed by the Department of Insurance;
- The major concern is payment for services to children while they are in school, for which there is a lawsuit;

- The projected savings as a result of the Act appear to be less than projected.

### **Family Based Mental Health Services**

- The Children's Bureau continues to work with the 3 training centers to:
  - clarify the clinical model,
  - develop the training to support the model (including more focus on FBMHS Supervisors),
  - develop certification standards (including effective exams), and
  - establish standards for fidelity and for outcome measurement.

### **Youth Suicide Prevention**

- We are working in 3 Northeastern counties through a Garret Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grant;
- There are 10 primary care practices thus far that have agreed to conduct screening of youth in their practice;
- The mental health provider agencies work with the Practices to receive referrals and immediate response as needed.
- Nearly 400 youth have been screened, with 13% being identified as at-risk.

### **Call for Change**

- The OMHSAS Advisory Children's Advisory Committee continues to work on the Strategic Plan component of the Call for Change;
- The goal is to have the document completed by the November 5, 2010 Advisory Committee meeting;
- The 4 priorities are:
  - Goal 1: Develop increased capacity for the service system to be youth and family driven.
  - Goal 2: Ensure access to a comprehensive, integrated, cost-effective array of services in the least restrictive environment as defined by the needs of the youth. Youth and families throughout the Commonwealth should have ready access to comprehensive assessment and effective treatment and support services that sustain and nurture family and community ties.
  - Goal 3: Establishment of the infrastructure (financing, policies, training, etc) to implement a flexible and community based system;
  - Goal 4: Develop a public health approach to social and emotional wellness.