



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE**  
P.O. BOX 2675  
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17105-2675

Harriet Dichter  
Acting Deputy Secretary for  
Children, Youth and Families

Phone: (717) 787-4756  
Fax: (717) 787-0414

July 22, 2005

Dear County Children and Youth Administrator and Chief Juvenile Probation Officer:

I am writing in reference to address issues relating to contracts with private providers in light of the Children's Integrated Services Initiative (ICSI).

On June 9, 2005, the Department issued Bulletin 00-05-05 - Integrated Children's Service Initiative, which outlines the approach to identify behavioral health treatment services that have been historically reimbursed by county children and youth and juvenile justice agencies and that may be reimbursed by the Medical Assistance (MA) Program. The intent of this initiative is to transition those services that have a behavioral health treatment component to the MA Program, while continuing to fund child welfare and juvenile justice services through the child welfare program.

The ICSI bulletin notes that approximately 4 percent of statewide child welfare and juvenile justice expenditures have been identified for transition to the MA Program in the new fiscal year. This means that county children and youth agencies and juvenile probation offices will continue to purchase services in this program. Contracts with private providers will continue to be needed.

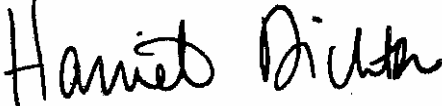
Counties should continue to contract with private providers to provide the necessary supports and services to children and families. Providers that have already transitioned to the MA Program, and are appropriate for participation in the child welfare and juvenile justice program, should be considered in this group. For example, residential providers who are non-accredited will receive their placement maintenance from the child welfare program and not from the MA Program. There are other services that are necessary for children and that are not covered by the MA Program, and we also expect that from time to time, the medical necessity criteria for a MA placement may not be met.

The Department will be working directly with each county to identify behavioral health services that are appropriate for reimbursement under the MA Program. The Department will be providing regular information on this initiative at our website at <http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/Child/003673036.htm>. If you would like more immediate information about when we will focus on your county, please contact your Office of Children, Youth and Families regional office.

If you have any question on this or other issues related to the ICSI, please do not hesitate to contact me at [hdichter@state.pa.us](mailto:hdichter@state.pa.us).

Thank you for you continued cooperation and your dedicated work on behalf of children, youth and families.

Sincerely

  
Harriet Dichter