

**OMHSAS Children's Bureau Updates
September 2009**

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| Act 62 External Advisory Committee | Sherry Peters | Monthly meetings | At least 3 family members involved. | Act 62 is the Autism Insurance Act that took effect in July, 2009 requiring certain private insurance to cover autism services. The advisory group is assisting in planning for a smooth transition. Information can be found at www.paautisminsurance.org | Ongoing forums to provide information for families and providers are available as needed. Meetings have been held between private insurers, counties, BH-MCOs, Insurance Department and DPW and will continue through the next year at least quarterly. |
| Adolescent Co- Occurring Training of Trainers (TOT) | Doris Arena | On-going | Family member Sharon Smith participated as an observer for the two day training | As a result of the recent Co-Occurring Training of Trainers (TOT) for Adolescent Co-Occurring, a cadre of trained professionals (educators, clinicians, other professionals) from various regions across the state are now equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to train the larger workforce across the state; thus, alleviating the barrier of access to adolescent co-occurring training resources. The list of regional trainers and their contact information is available on the DPW and DOH websites. | The participants will provide four trainings within their individual communities to transfer the knowledge and skills to the larger provider community across the state. OMHSAS will monitor the trainings and provide information on future training dates and locations. |
| Alternatives to Coercive Treatment (ACT) | Scott Talley or Courtney Coover The ACT is cross systems group that includes the Office of Developmental | Ongoing | Family members | As part of the Alternatives to Coercive Techniques restraint free initiative, the Department has developed a core competencies document. The Medical Assistance Bulletin clarifying the prohibition of prone restraint is in final review and expected to be issued in the near future | Review Needs Assessment data to determine next steps |

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|--|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | <p>Programs, the Office of Children Youth and Families, OMHSAS, Provider Association representation, the Department of Education and family members. The group is committed to supporting alternatives to restraint and other coercive methods while promoting a more supportive and trauma informed culture in residential and day treatment programs serving children</p> | | | <p>As a result of the Sanctuary State Core Team retreat a Needs Assessment was created as a way to further collaboration with providers. A member of the State Core Team will partner with each of the pilot providers to ask them a series of questions to determine how we as a State Core Team can better assist them.</p> | |
| <p>Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Workgroup</p> | <p>Crystal Doyle This is a collaborative effort by the Office of</p> | <p>Monthly Meetings</p> | <p>Parents, advocates, and youth are represented and participate on this Workgroup. If interested in learning more about this Workgroup, please</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CAPTA Workgroup has been divided into two groups – Citizen Review Panel Committee and the Children's Justice Act Committee/Task Force. • Citizen Review Panel Committee | <p>Eight Citizen Review Panels will be established across the Commonwealth. The first phase will consist of a total of three panels in the north west, south central and north east regions of Pennsylvania. The panels are required to meet at least quarterly</p> |

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| | Children, Youth and Families (OCYF), The Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program (PACWTP), and the Pennsylvania Child and Youth Administrators (PCYA) | | contact Cindi Horshaw at chorshaw@state.pa.us | <p>has developed a timeline for establishing six regional Citizen Review Panels across Pennsylvania and two local panels in the Philadelphia and Pittsburgh areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current efforts are focusing on finalizing recruitment and training materials. | <p>and provide annual recommendations to the Department regarding the continuous improvement of child welfare services in Pennsylvania.</p> <p>Citizen Review Panels are composed of volunteer members, including individuals with expertise and interest in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Citizen Review Panels evaluate practices as well as policies and procedures, develop a means for public outreach, and prepare an annual report highlighting panel activities and recommendations to improve child welfare services.</p> <p>For more information on Citizen Review Panels or to apply to be a panel member please visit the Pennsylvania Child Welfare Training Program's website at www.pacwcbt.pitt.edu/CAPTA.htm or contact Christine Reese at 717-795-9048. You can also send any questions via email to pacrp@pitt.edu.</p> |
| Child and Family Services Review Steering Committee (CFSR) | Crystal Doyle This group includes policy, licensing and operational staff from the Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF), County and Private | Monthly meetings | Youth Ambassadors, parents, and advocates are represented and participate on the steering committee. If interested in learning more about this committee, please contact Stephanie Maldonado at smaldonado@state.pa.us | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee continues to meet on a consistent basis to define action steps that would further enhance the recommendations provided to the Office of Children, Youth and Families after the Statewide Assessment | Develop and implement a Program Improvement Plan (PIP) to address issues of non-conformity after the Statewide Assessment conducted by the Federal Children's Bureau. |

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|--|--|--|--|---|--|
| | Children and Youth agencies and the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS). | | | | |
| Commonwealth Student Assistance Program | Denise Short or Sherry Peters | Advisory Council meets periodically; Commonwealth Approved Trainers meet twice a year; Regional SAP Coordinators meet monthly via conference calls, video, and face to face meetings | Two family members on Advisory Council | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Student Assistance Program (SAP) has been in existence for 23 years and provides screening, consultation and support services to youth in all 501 school districts throughout the Commonwealth. Currently SAP teams are in high schools, middle schools and some elementary schools. • Chapter 12 of the PA School Code was revised to include planning and provision of SAP for all school entities, kindergarten through grade 12. • SAP is an important service that is part of the joint initiative to provide School Wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS) in schools. • OMHSAS has recently been given the opportunity to collaborate with BDAP and PDE to develop an on-line reporting system for Student Assistance Program (SAP) liaison services through the existing SAP website. Aggregate data will be | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SAP is approaching and preparing for its 25th anniversary. Regional Coordinators and Statewide staff are working on developing a toolkit to be used by SAP teams. • Regional coordinators and state staff are also looking at revising the SAP manual. • The online data reporting system has been functioning for approximately one year and staff has begun to look at ways data may be most useful for all parties involved. We are continuing to streamline content and we are working on developing aggregate reports. |

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|--|-----------------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | collected on-line by each SAP Liaison Provider agency by school district on a quarterly basis using a web-based reporting system. The data will help to substantiate all of the hard work and dedication that the SAP Liaisons have provided to children. | |
| Cross Systems Workgroup | Scott Talley | Subcommittee of the OMHSAS Children's Advisory: Conference calls held between meetings | Family and youth members from the Advisory Committee and Sunshine members will participate in this workgroup. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Mission of the group is "To support increased awareness, understanding, and communication across Pennsylvania's child servicing systems at local, county, and state-wide levels." | The group is compiling a list of acronyms that is common across all child serving systems. The next meeting is September 3, 2009 during the OMHSAS Children's Advisory. |
| Deaf and Hard of Hearing Workgroup | Stan Mrozowski | Quarterly Meetings in SE | Several consumers are members of the work group. | Developing continuum of community services, including small residential, which is being developed by Milestones in Montgomery County. | Continue to develop and implement plan; work with group in Western PA to plan for a teleconference to discuss issues of statewide significance for youth and adults. |
| Early Childhood Mental Health Initiatives | Sherry Peters or Harriet Bicksler | ECMH Advisory Committee meets quarterly; children's bureau staff participate in various ECMH-related initiatives (e.g., Strengthening | A family member is co-chair of the ECMH Advisory Committee; additional family members with young children are being recruited for the advisory committee (around 3-5 family members currently, plus advocates). Contact Michele Walsh at | Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL) and OMHSAS have been working together on the ECMH Consultation project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project promotes healthy social-emotional development in young children while addressing challenging behaviors to prevent the need for a more intensive intervention in the child's future. ECMH Consultants work with | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> OMHSAS is providing psychiatric consultative services to the ECMH Consultants via phone, e-mail, and in person consultation with a child psychiatrist. (In the event that additional consultant services are needed, there is potential to access consultant services in each of the regional keys.) Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory Committee has met five times. The three workgroups (prevention and |

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|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| | | Families Leadership Team, Room to Grow Committee, ECMH Advisory Steering Committee, etc.); CASSP Coordinators and ECMH Consultants meet periodically; | micwal@berksiu.org for information. | <p>Early Care and Education Practitioners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ observe children and program practices ○ develop goals and strategies to enhance the practitioners' capacity to encourage development of positive relationships ○ create a learning environment which promotes positive behaviors. <p>A "periodic update on early childhood mental health initiatives in Pennsylvania" is published and available online at www.parecovery.org (click Statewide Initiatives/ECMH and scroll down to link). (Latest edition dated June 2009)</p> <p>Approximately 30 ECMH practitioners from across the state are completing the Infant Mental Health certificate program at Chatham University this summer through funding provided by OMHSAS.</p> | intervention, communication and collaboration, and workforce development) have been developing recommendations for the future. At the September 1, 2009 advisory committee meeting, these recommendations will be presented to DPW Secretary Estelle Richman and program office deputies by September 2009. There are recommendations for immediate implementation, as well as short-term, intermediate and long-term recommendationse. |
| Evidence-Based Programs (EBPs) | Courtney Coover, Elizabeth Campbell | Participation in quarterly Prevention Subcommittee Meetings at PCCD | | July 7th, quarterly PCCD meeting discussed how to best convey each entity's role (OCYF, PCCD, OMHSAS, EPIS Center) with MST, FFT, and MTFC providers as part of a resource packet as well as developing FAQ's for the EPIS Center to post on | Discuss data system EPIS center is creating for MTFC and eventually MST and FFT Utilize appropriate resources to identify further EBPs and promising practices. Finalize process for establishing regular |

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| | | <p>Quarterly MST provider calls</p> <p>Quarterly FFT provider calls</p> | | <p>their website.</p> <p>July 1st quarterly MST meeting discussed sample paperwork that was developed by MSTs and OMHSAS to assist providers in meeting both entities requirements as well as general updates from MST, OMHSAS and the providers present</p> | <p>contact with MTFC.</p> |
| Family-Based Regulations Workgroup | Deb Hardy | Stakeholders completed their work and their final work product was forwarded to Policy Division | Participants included OMHSAS, service providers, family members, MCO's, and County Representatives. | <p>The Family Focus Group report has been completed. A clinical review of current BH-MCO FB policies and procedures are underway. 3 BH-MCO's reviews have been completed. Center for Family Based Training, Wayne Jones, director has been accepted as a third trainer of the DPW core training for a specified group of providers.</p> <p>30 people sat for the FBMHS exam for graduates of the DPW core trainings on July 24. Results are pending. This test was a pilot test which was devised through the combined efforts of the WPIC and Child and Family Therapy Training Center directors.</p> | <p>The two remaining BH-MCOs will be contacted for participation in this review process.</p> <p>Analysis of the pilot test will be completed by OMHSAS and the training directors.</p> |
| Family-Group Decision Making (FGDM) | Courtney Coover | Statewide Implementation Team Meetings are quarterly; Evaluation sub-committee meetings are also quarterly | implementation team has representation | Last statewide mtg July 15 th , agenda items included the 3-5-7 model and Family Development Credentialing | Continue to share information. |

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|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Services Development | Deb Hardy (Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Programs (BDAP) FASD Task Force under leadership of the Department of Health) | Executive Committee meetings/Task Force Meetings are focused towards building a system of care to meet the service needs of those children, adults, and families living with FASD. Quarterly Task Force Meetings | Parents, advocates, physicians, researchers, service providers, nurses and government policy makers participate | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Invited to serve on the BDAP Executive Committee of the Statewide FASD Task Force -Continue involvement as a member on the Statewide Task Force, which will reconvene in December to develop an implementation strategy for the Five Year Plan. -Participate on planning committee for the Children's Interagency Conference in the development of FASD programming to include presentations and a round table discussion. -Advocate for inclusion of FASD presentations at the SWAN/IL Conference as a member of the Conference Planning Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Seek presenters for the conference. -Continue to assist in expanding public and private child-serving agencies' involvement to increase awareness and get out important message of need to combine prevention with active intervention. <p>The Five Year Plan for FASD is available online at www.parecovery.org (click on Statewide Initiatives/Early Childhood Mental Health and scroll to last item on page.)</p> |
| Integrated Children's Services Planning Advisory Committee | Sherry Peters | Quarterly | Youth and family subcommittees meet before the advisory committee. At least 10 family and youth are involved in this committee. | The Integrated Children's Services Plan Advisory Committee is comprised of county representatives and staff from MH/MR, C&Y, EI, D&A, Juvenile Detention Centers, DPW, PDE, and DOH. This external Committee also includes service providers, family members, child advocates and youth. The role of this committee includes providing the Department input and recommendations on integrated service policies and procedures, provide feedback on best practices on integration of services and to assist in | Plans for 10/11 should be submitted in August and September. |

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|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| | | | | the review of county integrated plans. | |
| MacArthur MH/JJ Model Systems Project | Stan Mrozowski | Quarterly | Families involved in project | Screening and assessment, development of county efforts to implement elements of position statement, family involvement. Beginning study of Juvenile Mental health Courts. | Work with Juvenile Detention Centers to establish screening, assessment, and treatment protocols. |
| OMHSAS Advisory Executive Committee | Sherry Peters, or Doris Arena, or Shaye Erhard | Every other month | Youth and families involved. Co-chairs from Older Adult, Adult, and Children's Advisory Committees attend these meetings. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The OMHSAS Advisory Executive Committee is comprised of the Co-Chairs of the Children's Adult, and Older Adult Committees to provide a structure for the coordination of the Advisory Committee's activities, concerns, and issues. • The Committee is responsible for the development of agendas, completing required correspondence, making recommendations of specific tasks and assignment of workgroups to develop information and recommendations on these issues, and making decisions on behalf of the Committee between meetings. • The Executive Committee acts as the Membership Committee, and having the authority to recommend to the Deputy Secretary persons to be appointed to the three committees. | |
| OMHSAS Youth Advisory Subcommittee | Doris Arena | Every other month | Youth and families involved | The OMHSAS Youth Advisory Committee is currently seeking applicants to fill positions on the Subcommittee. | The committee will continue to provide feedback to the Deputy Secretary on matters related to the needs of transition age youth. |

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|--|--|---|--|--|---|
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| PA Juvenile Fire Setter Interagency Coalition | Deb Hardy | Under leadership of the PA State Fire Commissioner's Office, to establish intervention efforts to address the problem associated with juvenile fire setting within the Commonwealth ; meetings held quarterly or as needed. | | Attended the Juvenile Firesetter Advisory Group held June 22, 2009. The curriculum continues to be updated to meet the requirements of an MA eligible service. | Finalize the template JFS treatment program, planned to be completed by November 2009. Determine possibility for certification of training program. |
| Public Health Workgroup | Stan Mrozowski | Subcommittee of the OMHSAS Children's Advisory: Conference calls held between meetings | Family and youth members from the Advisory Committee and Sunshine members will participate in this workgroup. | One of the three new workgroups of the Children's Advisory Committee. | Identification of ways to use the OMHSAS website to provide resources and information. |

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|--|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| Residential Treatment Facilities (RTF) Cross System Workgroup | Scott Talley The group includes policy, licensing and operational staff from the Office of Children Youth and Families (OCYF), Office of Medical Assistance Programs/the Bureau of Program Integrity (BPI), the Department of Health (DOH) and the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (OMHSAS). | Ongoing | | The integration of the approval, licensure, and certification of Residential Treatment Facilities (RTFs) is an initiative within Department of Public Welfare. Since 2002 the DPW/RTF Cross System Workgroup has met regularly to implement a cross system team approach to the review, approval, as well as improving the quality of care provided to residents within RTF's through the regional and field offices. | Targets established by the workgroup are: 1) To establish consistent review and approval guidelines of RTF's and to improve the quality of care provided to residents. 2) To increase communication between state departments for the purposes of incident and site review reporting. |
| Residential Initiative | Stan Mrozowski, Sherry Peters, Scott Talley | ongoing | Periodic | Development of draft RTF regulations; Development of a White Paper on PRTFs; retreat with OMHSAS and OCYF; work groups to collect data on out-of-state issues, community alternatives, outcomes, pay for performance, and implications of FGDM and High Fidelity Wraparound. | Plan for OCYF/OMHSAS meeting to finalize the report and develop plans for stakeholder involvement. |
| Resource | Doris Arena | Monthly | This is an internal DPW | The Resource Facilitation Team (RFT) | |

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Facilitation Team (RFT) | | | workgroup and specific cases are discussed; therefore youth and families are not involved. | <p>facilitates the transition of physical health (PH) age-outs from the Early and Periodic Screening Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) program to an alternate package of home and community-based services, to avoid institutionalization, and remain a viable part of their family and community. The RFT consists of representatives from the Office of Social Programs (OSP), Office of Program Development (OPD), Office of Children, Youth and Families (OCYF), and Office of Medical Assistance Programs (OMAP) to include long term care, managed care, and fee-for-service.</p> <p>The RFT's functions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gathering and reviewing assessments and other pertinent material to determine an individual's eligibility for a specific package of service or waiver program, • referring any individual, for whom the team members cannot find placement, to the Executive Steering Committee for further action | |
| Respite | Crystal Doyle | Bi-monthly meetings | Youth (1) and Family Members (4) involvement on the Workgroup. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of the 4th quarter reporting forms received from counties. | The next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2009. The group continues to identify Counties/Joinders that need technical |

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|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| | | | <p>*The group has identified a need for additional representation specifically in the following categories: rural, youth, cultural diversity, parents of MH children/youth, MH case managers and service coordinators</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making contact with Counties to ensure that allocated respite funds are being spent per the established guidelines and allocated funds will be spent by the end of the current fiscal year. | <p>assistance based on the reporting form data received through 4th quarter of fiscal year 2008-2009.</p> <p>The group has finalized Respite Guidelines for fiscal year 2009-2010.</p> <p>Participants from the Workgroup agreed that the following three areas would focus the ongoing work of the group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring the expenditure of allocations for the use of respite services; Developing resources such as training curriculum, informational brochures, rural issues; balancing safety with parent choice; Developing consistent evaluation information that would demonstrate the value of respite and the need for additional funds for expansion. |
| <p>School Based Behavioral Health Leadership Team</p> | <p>Denise Short, Sherry Peters or</p> | <p>Conference calls or face to face meetings monthly</p> | <p>At least 3 family and youth members are involved along with multiple advocates.</p> | <p>OMHSAS has been participating on a School Based Behavioral Health Leadership team with the Department of Education and other stakeholders to Promote joint initiatives such as Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, School Based Behavioral Health pilot programs, and providing ongoing training and consultation for education staff and provider agencies.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaboration continues with DPW, PDE, DOH, PATTAN PGH to lead the effort for Schoolwide Positive Behavior Support. A two day meeting was held in August to streamline the statewide efforts. Continuing to work on the development of the PA PBS website. See attached update regarding letter from U.S. Secretary Arne Duncan regarding the use of seclusion and restraints in schools. |

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|--|---------------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Statewide Adoption Network | Crystal Doyle | Monthly mtgs on the Conference Planning Committee and quarterly mtg on the Advisory Board | This is not an OMHSAS facilitated group. More information on Family involvement may be obtained by contacting the Statewide Adoption Network. OCYF Youth Ambassadors participate in these meetings. | Continue membership on the Conference Planning Committee for the Permanency Conference 2009. | Continue to provide technical assistance and access to resources that will best be suited to the intended audience of child welfare providers and resource families. |
| Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative | Denise Short or Sherry Peters | Youth Monitoring Committee meets at least quarterly with occasional conference calls and Youth Advisory meets at least 2 times per year. | 2 family members are involved. | The Youth Monitoring Committee provides consultation and directs the agenda and activities for the Youth Suicide Prevention Initiative. OMHSAS and the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, along with other state partners and stakeholders made application to SAMHSA to receive funds through the Garrett Lee Smith Suicide Prevention Grant. OMHSAS learned in September that we received \$500,000 for the first year with continuing funding for two more years. Check www.payspi.org for more information. | <p>PA Suicide Youth Prevention Initiative web site at www.payspi.org includes pages featuring each county's suicide prevention efforts and resources, and is continually adding more information and resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September 30, 2009 will mark Year 1 of the grant. Efforts are under way to host a One Day Stakeholder Meeting to look at this year's accomplishment and next steps and strategies for next year. • Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Attachment Based Family therapy trainings were well attending. • Training will continue in the area of co-occurring treatment for mental health and drug and alcohol issues. • Weekly conference calls occur with each county along with monthly in person meetings with a continued focus on strategic planning and implementation of the grant. • Each county has identified Primary Care & Behavioral Partners. Exploring outreach and community |

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|---|--|---|--|--|---|
| | | | | | <p>awareness efforts to foster more PCP & BH partnerships.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suicide Prevention Conference to be held 9/15& 9/16 in State College. |
| Transition Cross Systems Workgroup | Doris Arena | Monthly face to face meetings. | <p>One family member and two transition age young adults.</p> <p>*Currently recruiting an additional family member to participate.</p> | <p>The OMHSAS Cross Systems Transition Workgroup continues to meet monthly. The focus of the group is to involve cross system policy partners, family members and transition age youth and young adults to identify and prioritize policies or practices embedded in policy that hinder successful transition.</p> <p>The group recently developed a workgroup report that summarizes the work the group has accomplished and identifies several key areas for change.</p> | The goal of the workgroup is to develop a work plan by late June 2009 that will identify cross systems policies that impede transition and outline specific strategies to address these obstacles. The workgroup will continue to meet on a monthly basis to work through this process. |
| Systems of Care | Deb Hardy | Conference calls with Calibur as schedule permits as well as local meetings periodically. | Family involvement with cross system representatives on both state and local levels. | The five year System of Care (SOC) grant period has passed. Sustainability Conference Call Series are held monthly. The last two covered family involvement with a focus on sharing leadership and moving beyond comfort level in order to work together in new ways. The presenters included Executive Director of Circle of Parents and a parent leader and trainer from Prevent Child Abuse. | Participate in the local meetings for planning of the one year no cost extension. Although Pa's request has not been officially approved to date; it is expected to meet with the Fed's approval. |
| Transition State Leadership Team | Doris Arena (Statewide Cross-Systems) | Quarterly meetings | PA State Youth Leadership Network | The SLT will meet on September 29 th for their quarterly meeting to discuss the outcomes from the Transition conference and to begin to plan for next year. | The SLT is currently working on the details of the 2009 Community on Transition Conference. |

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|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| | representatives) | | | | |
| Youth and Family Advocacy Workgroup | Sherry Peters | Subcommittee of the OMHSAS Children's Advisory: Conference calls held between meetings | Family and youth members from the Advisory Committee and Sunshine members will participate in this workgroup. | One of the three new workgroups of the Children's Advisory Committee. This workgroup will focus on developing and promoting a statewide strategy to build capacity for youth and family advocacy at the local level. There were 2 conference calls held since May, one in July and one in August. Members of this workgroup were scheduled to meet with the Youth and Family Institute Advisory Board on August 12 th to discuss family advocacy. | Meet at the September Advisory and schedule future conference calls at that time. |
| Youth and Family Institute Development | Stan Mrozowski Sherry Peters or Scott Talley | Weekly meetings to discuss implementation | Periodically | Creation of Advisory Board, testing financing models working with counties to serve as "Early Implementers" and public education presentations. | Continue to support implementation in the 5 early counties; develop plans for the next three counties; continue public education; establish work group to identify operational processes. |

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