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Delaware Children’s Department Celebrates Creation of Delaware Behavioral and Mental Health Commission

Wilmington, DE – Delaware Children’s Department Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services Director Susan Cycyk recently joined Governor Jack Markell, legislators, and advocates in the bill signing of Senate Bill 245 w/SA1 which created the Delaware Behavioral and Mental Health Commission.

Per the legislation, the 21 member Commission will provide oversight of the State’s behavioral and mental health system and provide recommendations on strategies for expanding access to quality care. The Commission will also permit the State to continue its ongoing efforts to ensure that individuals with serious and persistent mental illnesses are treated in appropriate settings and with appropriate resources. Finally, the Commission will be empowered to provide ongoing independent review, monitoring, advice, and critique of the provision of behavioral and mental healthcare in Delaware.



Governor Jack Markell (seated) joined by PBH Director Susan Cycyk (first from the left), Senator Bethany Hall-Long, Senator Patricia Blevins, Representative Debra Heffernan and advocates at the bill signing.

“At some time or another we have all experienced mental health challenges, whether due to a traumatic life experience or a biological or developmental change. There is no shame in it,” said Director Cycyk of the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services. “Our children experience some of the very same challenges as adults and often display variations in behavior, feelings, social relationships and academic achievement. We are pleased to work with our system partners, advocates, and families to ensure healthy outcomes for Delaware’s children.”

Both Director Cycyk and Children’s Department Cabinet Secretary Carla Benson-Green have seats on the Commission.

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The Children’s Department provides services to children who have been abused, neglected, are dependent, have mental health or substance problems, and/or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts as well as prevention services targeted toward all youth. For more information, please visit www.kids.delaware.gov.