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Delaware Children's Department Receives over \$10M in Federal Grants

Latest award of \$9M will fund evidence-based mental health practice

WILMINGTON- The Delaware Children's Department continues to implement best practices, despite tight fiscal restraints, with the help of recent grant awards from the Federal government. The latest award of \$9 million will be used to serve young children (aged birth to 5 years) with serious emotional disturbances and their families in the community.

According to a recent study by the Yale Child Study Center, Delaware ranks fourth in the nation in the rate at which children are expelled from public pre-schools. The reason most often cited for expulsion is behavior problems. This grant will fund an evidence-based practice called Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT), which aims to improve the quality of parent-child relationships, increase pro-social behaviors in the child and improve parenting skills.

"Delaware has consistently demonstrated success using grants to transform critical elements of its children's public behavioral health system and sustain goals," said Cabinet Secretary Henry Smith. "Given the current financial climate in the state and across the country, we're extremely pleased to receive federal support to continue the critical work we must do."

The grant will be dispersed to the Department over a six year period, with \$1million being allotted for the first. Children in the child welfare system and their families or caregivers are targeted for treatment. Annually, after start-up, 60 children will be served with in-home treatment and at least 84 children will be served in outpatient settings. More children will be served each year as additional therapists master PCIT.

"It is a true collaborative effort," explained Director of CMH Susan Ccyk. "We have the strong support of the state and of its partners, including treatment providers, families and caregivers, education staff and many others, needed to implement this proposal and positively impact the lives of the children and families we serve."

On any given day, the Delaware Children's Department provides services to approximately 9,000 children who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, dependent, or have mental health or substance abuse problems, and/or have been adjudicated delinquent by the Courts. Over 22,000 unduplicated children receive services each year through the Delaware Children's Department. Thousands more Delaware children receive services from the Department through home-, community-, or school-based prevention and early intervention programs, and child care licensing.

Our Mission: The Delaware Department of Services for Children, Youth & Their Families provides leadership and advocacy for all of Delaware's children, while endorsing a holistic approach to enable children to reach their fullest potential.

For more information, please visit www.kids.delaware.gov or www.ThinkOfTheChildFirst.com

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