



For immediate release:  
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### **“Get the Scoop on Mental Health” Dishes out Information and Italian Ice**

WILMINGTON—In an effort to promote “May is Mental Health Month,” the Delaware Children’s Department’s Division of Child Mental Health Services, along with participating Rita’s locations and several community partners, is hosting its 5<sup>th</sup> annual “Get the Scoop on Mental Health” event tonight from 6 – 8 p.m. Children and families can go to a participating Rita’s location to receive a free water ice as well as materials designed to raise awareness and offer ways to seek help regarding various mental health and substance abuse challenges.

Studies show that at least one in five children and adolescents has had or is experiencing a mental health disorder. At least one third of these youth do not receive help to address these issues. With the right resources, children and youth with mental health needs and their families can achieve a better quality of life.

“Awareness and education are the first steps toward helping children and families who are facing mental health and substance abuse challenges,” said Vivian Rapposelli, secretary of the Delaware Children’s Department. “We’re grateful to Rita’s for providing a wonderful incentive to come out and learn more about how to recognize these issues and seek help when needed.”

Hosting the event on May 7<sup>th</sup> coincides with National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day, a day dedicated to promoting positive mental health through building resiliency. This year, 12 Rita’s Water Ice locations throughout the state have agreed to provide a free kid size water ice to customers from 6 – 8 p.m., to help spread the word.

On any given day, the Delaware Children’s Department provides services to approximately 8,000 children who have been abused, neglected, abandoned, are dependent, 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 Children’s Department. Thousands more Delaware children received services from the Department through home-, community-, or school-based prevention and early intervention programs, and child care licensing.

For more information, please visit [www.kids.delaware.gov](http://www.kids.delaware.gov) or [www.ThinkOfTheChildFirst.com](http://www.ThinkOfTheChildFirst.com)

#### **Participating Rita’s locations include:**

2222 Silverside Road, Wilm., DE 19810	2909 Concord Pike Wilm., DE 19803;
3730 Kirkwood Highway, Wilm., DE 19808	722 Philadelphia Pike, Wilm., DE 19809;
3230 Philadelphia Pike, Claymont, DE 19703	1730 W. Newport Pike, Stanton, DE 19804
600 Newark Shopping Cnt., Newark, DE 19711	600 E. Basin Road, New Castle, DE 19720
939 N. Dupont Highway, Milford, DE 19963	123 E. Dupont Highway, Millsboro, DE 19966
105 Midway Village, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971	
1250 Norman Eskridge Highway, Unit 1, Seaford, DE 19973	

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