



For Immediate Release  
October 31, 2005

Contact: Kelly Savacool  
302.633.2501

## **Delaware Children's Department Receives \$1.6M Traumatic Stress Grant**

WILMINGTON - The Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families is one of 19 organizations selected to receive a National Child Traumatic Stress grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

The \$1.6 million grant (\$400,000/year for four years) will fund a Delaware Child Traumatic Stress Treatment and Service Center that will be part of a nation-wide network of community-based treatment and services centers that are supported by national expertise.

The Department will target services to youth in the child welfare, juvenile justice and mental health/substance abuse service systems who have been traumatized by physical and/or sexual abuse or by witnessing violence.

"While most children and adolescents who experience trauma rebound and grow from the experience, there are many others who need some extra help," said Cari DeSantis, Cabinet Secretary of the Delaware Children's Department. "This grant will strengthen our Department's capacity to provide help to those children and help them to build on their strengths and develop resilience to overcome their difficulties."

The grant will allow Delaware to increase its capacity to provide treatment by 120 youth each year, enhance the quality of treatment by using evidence-based, proven-effective practices and evaluate the effectiveness of trauma treatment and services in community settings.

The Delaware Children's Department provides leadership and advocacy for Delaware's children. The Department's primary responsibility is to provide and manage a range of services for children's who have experienced abandonment, abuse, adjudication, mental illness, neglect, or substance abuse, while endorsing a holistic approach to enable children to reach their fullest potential. For more information, please visit <http://www.state.de.us/kids/>.

###