



DCMHS Kids Line

Winter 2004

Ruth Ann Minner,
Governor

A Newsletter from the Division of Child Mental Health Services
Department of Service for Children, Youth and Their Families

Cari DeSantis,
Cabinet Secretary

Message from the DCMHS Director:

As we approach the holiday season, I am simply overwhelmed with gratitude to all of you who work so hard in and with the Division of Child Mental Health Services. We have a positive impact on so many children and families in Delaware - providing treatment and care management to 2, 234 children and their families in FY 04 and providing assessments for another 400+ children. Appreciation often felt is perhaps not so often communicated, so I want to take this opportunity to recognize you for your excellent work and consistent effort to improve the mental health of our children.



Susan Czyk, Director

THANK YOU to.....

- **the staff of our division** for consistent above-and-beyond performance in all of our key functions, including care management, intake and assessment and network administration. All of our staff is essential to our success.
- **our network of service providers who provide direct treatment** for the children and families in our system. Your commitment to high quality community services and to partnership with families in treatment is a critical factor in successful treatment.
- **our colleagues in the Children's Department**, across the divisions of Family Services, Youth Rehabilitative Services and Management Support Services and the Office of Case Management. We value highly your shared commitment to "Think of the Child First!"
- **our State's Governor, Ruth Ann Minner, to our Cabinet Secretary, Cari DeSantis and to our Legislature** who set high standards for Delaware's children's services and who provide funding and ongoing support.
- **the members of our Statewide Child Mental Health Community Advisory Council** for providing vision and broadly (see p. 2)



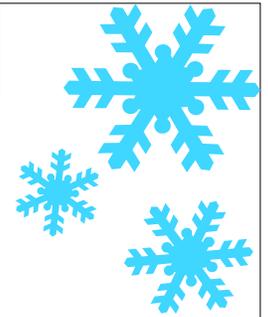
*Wishing you all
Peace and Joy in this
Holiday season!*

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DCMHS Director's Message (continued)



representative input, challenging our division to continually improve our performance.

- **to our families.** Your support and participation in treatment of children in our system is crucial for the success of individual children. Your willingness to form the Delaware Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health signals real system-level involvement in our state's children's mental health services planning, system review and improvement and particularly in advocacy for children's mental health. Your participation is a major indicator of success as our Children's Department implements a comprehensive system of care for children.

I wish you all, on behalf of the entire division, a very happy holiday season. As the philosopher Teilhard de Chardin wrote "The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason for hope." As the Year 2004 comes to a close, I ask you to reflect on the many ways you contribute substantially, as individuals and as a caring collective, to the development of hope in children and youth who face significant mental health and substance abuse challenges. And as the year 2005 opens, I ask you to make a renewed commitment, along with me, to do even more to advance children's mental health in the coming year.

Best Wishes for a warm, hopeful, and peace-filled season,

Susan

P.S. To see the FULL COLOR edition of our newsletter, please go to www.state.de.us/kids, DCMHS' website!!!

Individual Residential Treatment Parents

At this special holiday time of year, DCMHS is thankful for all who have helped to make our new service, Individual Residential Treatment, such a success!

Children who step-down from institutional, facility-based residential treatment are reported to be doing very well in this new service. It brings all of us in the Division of Child Mental Health real joy to know that children in IRT are preparing for the holidays in home-settings where treatment parents and providers with 100% commitment are there to support them. Participating in school holiday events, extra-curricular and after-school activities, working part-time jobs, getting ready for holiday dances and community festivals—all normal activities for children in our communities but NOT things youth in institutions do!

Happy Holidays to all!



Rose Wooten and Shelley Couch are Treatment Parents with Pressley Ridge (cite it right) shown here attending a conference on Family Engagement at the University of Delaware.

NEW DCMHS SERVICES

A yellow circular logo with a sunburst pattern in the background. The word "NEWS" is written in large, bold, blue capital letters at the top, and "FLASH!" is written in smaller, bold, red capital letters at the bottom.

Intensive Outpatient Treatment ~ Home-based

The new IOP treatment service operated by DCMHS' Terry Center has admitted its first client and expects to be at capacity with **16 children** in treatment by the end of December, 2004. The Director is Diane Amery, Psy.D Therapists include Sally Rosenberg, Dianne Wood, Shannon Bordley, Kevin Loomis and Antoine Warren. With five therapists, the new service will have staff available to work with children and their families until 8:00 pm 5 nights per week in an effort to make the services accessible to our clients. Intervention includes, but isn't limited to, individual/group/family therapy, behavior management, recreation activities that support treatment plan goals, school consultation and behavioral assessment.

Intensive Mental Health Outpatient Treatment for Children with mental retardation/developmental delays

Pressley Ridge has been selected as the provider of this new service in Delaware. Funding comes from the Families and Communities Together (F.A.C.T.) Project, the Division's federally funded systems of care grant.

Children with mental retardation and/or developmental delays began receiving treatment through this new intensive mental health outpatient service on November 20, 2004. Aileen Fink, Ph.D., Clinical Services Management Team Leader for the F.A.C.T. Project, indicates that we can expect to see all 8 IOP slots in this new, statewide treatment program filled in December, 2004,

Delaware IOP/mr-dd program staff traveled to Pittsburgh, PA to participate in training offered by a similar Pressley Ridge treatment program.

Enhanced crisis intervention service:

An operational change in NCC providers of crisis services has been in the planning stages for quite some time. Effective Monday, November 1, 2004 at 8:00 a.m. this change was put in place:

- New Castle County Crisis Response and Intervention will be provided by Tressler Brandywine Project for all age groups. As of 11/1 all mobile crisis services will be offered via contract providers.
- New Castle County Crisis Bed will be provided by Terry Center for all age groups in need of this service.

We expect to maintain and will strive to improve the quality and timeliness of New Castle County crisis intervention service. At the consumer end, we expect that this change will be *almost* invisible, and over time, will increase our responsiveness.

Bob Dunleavy is still the Clinical Services Manager for client-related issues around both programs and Jeanne Dunn is still the network administrator for administrative/contractual issues regarding both programs. Tom Olson is directing the Terry Center and Ray Shamus is the clinical supervisor for the Brandywine Project.

TRAINING TRACKGet on Board!!!!!!

Social Skills for Youth with Disabilities

Training for staff:

HR Supervisor's Manual
Dec. 14—9:30am —noon,
University Plaza

Dec. 15 9:00 am—12:30 pm,
Del Youth and Family
Center

Dec. 28 Workshop on
Psychotropic

Medications to be
given by Dr. Rich Mar-
golis, 2:00—3:30 pm ,

Dover, Pardee Center/UD

DCMHS Staff: For easy reference,
please see the September through No-
vember training calendars on the U:
drive/Training folder for dates, times,
and general locations.

HOLD THE DATE !!!

March 24, 2005—Full day
workshop on "Co-occurring
Mental Health and Substance
Abuse Disorders in Children and
Adolescents: Ef-
fective Treatment
for the Best Out-
comes," Win Turner,
Ph.D. will be our pre-
senter. Workshop
will be held at Clay-
ton Hall, U of D,
Newark, DE.



GET ON BOARD.....!

June 05—Annual Conference,
National Association of Case
Management, Philadelphia, PA—
DCMHS will sponsor staff par-
ticipation in this training confer-
ence.

Deficits in social skills are a key cri-
teria in defining many high-
incidence disabilities that hinder
students' academic progress, such
as specific learning disabilities, at-
tention deficit/hyperactivity disor-
der, mental retardation and emo-
tional disturbance.

Helping students learn social skills
is a proactive approach to minimiz-
ing the impact of these types of
disabilities on school success.

Help on the web:

[http://www.ncset.org/publications
/viewdesc.asp?id=1749](http://www.ncset.org/publications/viewdesc.asp?id=1749)

National Center on Secondary Education and Transition:

Role of social skills at school, in-
structional strategies for teaching
social skills to students with dis-
abilities, list of social skills needed
by transition-age students and
more!

**Emotion Coaching Can Help Children Overcome Impacts of Family
Violence**— When women engage in a technique called emotion coach-
ing, even in families where there is domestic violence, their children
are less aggressive, depressed and withdrawn according to research-
ers at the University of Washington. The study, funded by NIH, will
be published in the upcoming issue of Journal of Family Psychology.

www.newswise.com/p/articles/view/507654/



INSIGHTS FROM WEBSITES.....

Check it out!

www.effectivechildtherapy.com

The Society of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology and the MacArthur Foundation have just launched a website to provide up-to-date information on mental health practices for children and adolescents. Major diagnoses are described along with evidence-based treatments and additional reading.

Check it out!

www.rtc.pdx.edu/nwi

Its new—the National Wraparound Initiative (NWI) website promotes the implementation of high quality Wraparound and creation of a learning and sharing community with a high level of expertise.

Check it out!

DCMHS Community Provider Progress Notes...

With the recent announcement by the United Way of Delaware that it will be reducing grants to service providers, the Director of DCMHS, Susan Czyk, reminds individuals in our community interested in donating funds can contact the United Way or DCMHS Network Service Providers directly. For a list of DCMHS Providers with contact information, go to www.state.de.us/kids/cmhs.htm. "The community's support is vital for the continuation of services," said the Director. An indication of the impact the

funding reductions may have on DCMHS providers comes from Al Snyder, Executive Director of Children and Families First, who says that an 18% decrease in United Way funding constitutes a \$225,000 loss for CCF-supported programs. These programs include teen pregnancy prevention, counseling, cultural transition, parent education and supports and resource mothers. "United Way funding has enabled us to fill important service gaps and provide essential services for clients who would not

otherwise receive these services. The United Way deserves our strong continued support. It has been a vital source of funding for community programs and a strong partner to community agencies like CFF," said Mr. Snyder.

NEW SAMHSA Guide to Improving Treatment now available:

Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) #39—Substance Abuse Treatment and Family Therapy

<http://www.csat.samhsa.gov/publications.html>

State Provider Progress Notes:

Terry Center's 35th Birthday!

Richard Cruz, Anita Amurao, Carol McKinney and Inez Hansen were among the many staff and clients who celebrated the Terry Center's 35th birthday on 9/21/04.



SilverLake Celebrates Fall!

SilverLake Treatment Center celebrated fall with its youth in treatment, family members and staff at its Annual Fall Harvest Festival on November 17, 2004.

Please to go page 14 for pictures from the event!

Mental Health Block Grant Update:

In October 2004, Yolanda Jenkins (DCMHS), Susan Gumbs, Steve Dettwyler and Ronya Anna (DSAMH) and Dick Patterson (vice president of DSAMH's GAC) represented Delaware in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to defend the FY 2005 Mental Health Block Grant.



Yolanda Jenkins, DCMHS with Ronya Anna and Steve Dettweiler, Of DSAMH/DHSS. After a very successful federal review of Delaware's Mental Health Block Grant and Progress

There were at least 12 reviewers present at Delaware's review. Delaware's FY 2005 Mental Health Block was approved with minimal changes; in-fact, the KIDS Department was only asked to submit their Advisory Council Membership List, to clarify what evidence-based practices were used, and to re-write one performance measure.

We received the following comments:

- It appears that the Children and Adult Systems communicate very well by your presentation!
- The block is well written and easy to understand; it's nice to read a state proposal when it is so organized!

- Delaware's mental health system is addressing the goals of The Presidents New Freedom Commission.
- Very good!

Thanks to Yolanda Jenkins, Roberta Ray, Kathryn Strosneider and our DSAMH partners, Susan Gumbs, Steve Dettwyler, Ronya Anna, and Dick Patterson, a family member and NAMI Delaware member, for all the hard work they put into this grant and for defending it so successfully!

Intake & Assessment Unit Staff Retreat

On Sept. 21, 2004, the Intake and Assessment Unit held its annual retreat at Buena Vista Conference Center. Teri Dunbar and Doris Lauckner organized an excellent program which included: Jim Maxwell on Testifying in Court, Susan Cyzyk on CMH and DSCYF update, Guy Danjoint on Working with an Interpreter to serve Haitians, Linda Zervas on working with the PD's Forensic Evaluators, Hall Miller on MIS Operations, Cliff Rodman on Developing a Data Base for Adjudicated Sex Offender Protocols, Abe Mensch on Noncompliant and Explosive Youth Behaviors, Dana Sawyer and Mary Polk on Office of Prevention Programs available for youth and families and Cliff Rodman on Computer Technology to Facilitate Clinical Work.

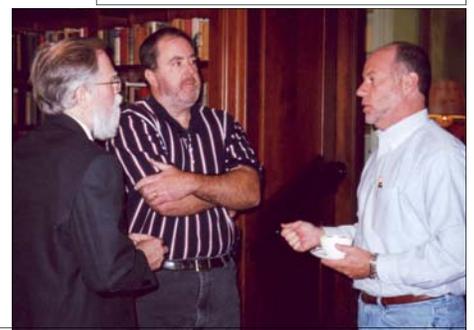
All the material was directly relevant to I&A work. It was a great retreat!



Deputy Attorney General Jim Maxwell on Testifying in Court



Doris Lauckner and Terri Dunbar—retreat planners



Randal Wimberley, Bob Kohl and Marc Richman discuss clinical assessment methods



Delaware Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health

Defining "Family Driven"

The Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health has been tasked with developing a working definition of "family-driven." An expert panel of family members, youth, providers and administrators from systems of care communities, led by Trina and David Osher, met in San Francisco at the June Training Institutes and developed the following initial draft definition:

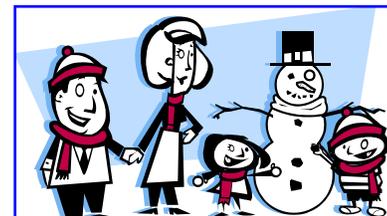
In making decisions, a family-driven system of care gives precedence to family and youth.

Family-driven systems of care actively demonstrate their partnerships with all families and youth by sharing power, resources, authority and control. Family and youth experiences, their visions and goals, perceptions of strengths and needs and guidance about what will make them comfortable steer decision-making about all aspects of service and system design, operation and evaluation. Family-driven systems of care are culturally competent environments in which family and youth voices are heard and valued, everyone is respected and trusted, and where families and youth feel it is safe for them to speak honestly. Family-driven systems of care ensure that families and youth have access to sound professional expertise so they have good information on which to base the choices they make.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.tapartnership.org/news/Sept04/familymatter.htm>

FFCMH is actively seeking feedback to refine and improve this Definition !!!!



Happy Holidays !!!!

Yolanda Jenkins and Alex Tunnell (left) talk with family members who stopped by to check out the DCMHS Information Table at the recently Delaware Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health full day conference.



Department News—Division of Family Services (DFS)



2005-2009 Child and Family Services Five-Year Plan -

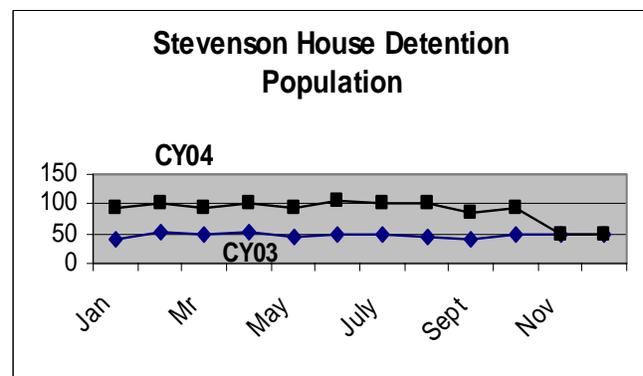
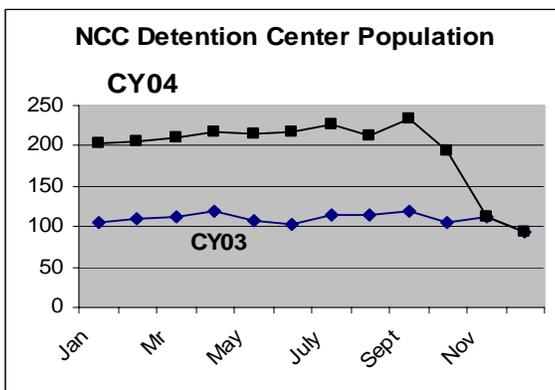
The 1997 passage of the Adoption and Safe Families Act and the Child and Family Service Review (CFSR) has greatly impacted the child welfare system throughout the nation. One of the requirements is that states develop a five year plan which covers child welfare. Our plan was submitted in June and was accepted this fall. The plan builds around seven systemic factors and outcomes which states are held accountable for. The 7 Outcomes are: Children are, first and foremost, protected from abuse and neglect, children are safely maintained in their homes whenever possible and appropriate, children have permanency and stability in their living situations, the continuity of family relationships and connections is preserved for children, families have enhanced capacity to provide for their children's needs, children receive appropriate services to meet their physical and mental health needs.

The 7 Systemic Factors are: statewide information system, case review system, quality assurance system, staff training, service array, agency responsiveness to community, and foster and adoptive parent licensing, recruitment and retention. Regarding safety, CMH is to provide specialized training for foster care providers in order to reduce the number of incidents of abuse or neglect in the foster care system, and to increase the stability of foster care placements. (go to page 13, bottom right)

Department News — Div. of Youth Rehabilitative Services

DYRS, DFS and DCMHS continue the worthwhile work of JDAI with the Annie E. Casey Foundation and other juvenile justice partners including Family Court, JP Court, the Department of Justice, Office of the Public Defender and the Criminal Justice Council. Beginning in August 2004, Family Court began piloting a Risk Assessment Instrument (RAI). The goal of the RAI is to bring uniformity to detention decisions and assist in reducing inappropriate detentions. The RAI has been applied to cases daily in Kent County Family Court and the Collaborative plans to begin Family Court state-wide implementation of the RAI in January 2005. In addition to this effort, Justice of the Peace Court has initiated Directive 220. This directive is similar to a RAI in that the document assists JP Court Magistrates in reducing or eliminating inappropriate detentions.

According to DSCYF, DYRS population data, the work of the JDAI Collaborative has impacted detention populations, in particular in New Castle County, as demonstrated in the average population charts below:



In addition to addressing population, the JDAI Collaborative strives to improve conditions of confinement. To that end, on November 10, 2004, the Mental Health Sub-Committee, comprised of DYRS and DCMHS staff, presented a draft document to the JDAI Collaborative entitled "Evaluation and Assessment Services available through DSCYF/DCMHS". The final document will be presented to courts and acts as an evaluation menu, outlining the various types of evaluations with clinical definitions. The goal for publishing a menu is to assist hearing officers, at a glance, in crafting orders that result in evaluations that best meet the Court's needs and allow youth to receive the most appropriate and expedited services. The Collaborative looks forward to more progress through the JDAI project. Thanks to all who participate!



DCMHS Staff Participate in "People of Color Conference "

The Mental Health Association in Delaware presented its 3rd annual People of Color Conference. **Yolanda Jenkins** and **Tracey Pearson** presented two Saturday workshops on Positive Youth Development and Leadership. Both workshops were well attended by providers, families, youth and interested persons.

The workshop focused on the following Workshops Objectives:

- All Youth need Positive Youth Development, not just youth that are in institutions or programs
- Youth are assets to be developed, not problems to be fixed

Roberta Ray presented two workshops at the November 6th Mental Health Association "3rd Annual People of Color Mental Health Conference". The workshops, "Signs and Symptoms of Behavioral Health Problems in Children and Youth" and "How to Get the Help You Need" were attended by more than 70 conference participants. Materials were provided on early identification of childhood behavioral health problems and on tips for building resilience in children and adolescents. In the discussion of treatment access, specific information was supplied on DCMHS services, Medicaid and insurance mental health benefits, and the parent/caretaker support available through the Delaware Federation for Families, the Division on Aging, and Grandparents United. The conference and the workshop were both a huge success with favorable outcomes from the conference evaluations.

DCMHS Staff Provides Training to South Delaware Foster Parents

Roberta Ray, DCMHS, presented a Foster Parent Training Class on "Depression in Children and Adolescents: From Sadness to Suicide Prevention" for Kent and Sussex foster parents. She later received the following note from **Darlene Lantz**, Foster Care **Administrator for Training Coordination**.

"Roberta, thank you so much for your excellent class last night on Depression in Children and Adolescents: From sadness to suicide prevention. You were so responsive to the class...and some class members clearly felt an urgent need to learn more about caring for a child/youth experiencing depression. You presented the material so clearly with such engaging examples. All of the evaluations were very positive.

DCMHS Staff provide consultation/training to OPEI facilitators

There are two training presentations to be held on 12/8/04; one to be given by **Dr. Michael Dencker** on "**Effective Management of Youth in Group Settings**" and the other

by **Dr. Richard Margolis** on "**Medication Management**". The sessions will be held at the DFS building at University Plaza. Dr. Dencker's training will begin at 10:00 a.m. and Dr. Margolis' at 11:00 a.m. Lunch will be offered at noon. These presentations are being held to aid OPEI's Creating Lasting Family Connections prevention program facilitators across the state.

DCMHS Mission:

To provide accessible, effective treatment for children through collaboration with families and service partners.

DCMHS HARVEST GATHERING 2004



DCMHS staff set up then enjoy delicious food and excellent company! DSCYF 21st Birthday Cake was dessert.



Yolanda Jenkins and Mary Moor enjoy the gathering.



Trish Hearn praises the dedicated work of Jimia Redden.



Rich Margolis and Dorothy Brodley enjoy a laugh.



Tom Olson and Trish Hearn take in the festivities ~ good time had by all!

On a "Personnel" Note...Employee Recognition



Dorothy Brodley, of the crisis service management unit, was recognized for 35 years of service. Dorothy's career with the state began in 1969 at the Terry Center.



DCMHS gives thanks for our talented staff !!!



Bob Kohl, Intake Init, was recognized for 15 years of dedicated service.



Eartha Hopkins of the Data Unit, was recognized for 10 years of service with the State of Delaware.

Bob Dunleavy, Crisis Service Management Team Leader, was recognized for 20 years of service

K. B. Inglee (center), supervisor of the Intake Unit, was recognized for 20 years of dedicated service.



DCMHS NEW HIRES:

Welcome to:

- Jill Ward, I&A Wilmington
- Justin Anderson MRTC
- Darrell Jones MRTC

DCMHS PROMOTIONS:

Congratulations to:

- Jill Charlton MRTC
- Katherine Veasey MRTC

Retiring are:

- Gayle Gregory MRTC
- Mark DiSabitino TC
- Larry Furrowh TC

Best Wishes to you all!

DCMHS Interns

Shown here at the Harvest Gathering, are our three psychology interns from

Widener University.

From left to right: **Heather Alford, Jeannette Mack-Allen and Amanda Lukens.**



Weekly News for Staff!!!!

Look to our division's **U: drive**, the common electronic drive, in the **WEEKLY FOLDER** for weekly reports from each of the four divisions of our Children's Department:

- Division of Child Mental Health Services
- Division of Family Services
- Division of Youth Rehabilitative Services
- Division of Management Support Services.



CMH Advisory Council member George Meldrum (left) and Mental Health Association Executive Director Jim Lafferty (right) talk about children's mental health with Delaware State Treasurer Jack Markell (center).

DCMHS Photo Op ~ Clinical Services Management Team Leaders



Sitting (from left)
Harvey Doppelt,
Director, CSM
Anna Frumin
Michael Dencker
Aileen Fink
Standing (from left)
Susan Schmidt
Martha McGregor
Mary Sweeney-Lehr
Peggy Spiegel
Andrea Rubinoff

Senator Cook Receives Award

Senator Nancy Cook (center) was recently presented with the Robert J. Berndt Humanitarian Award by the Governor's Advisory Council on Substance Abuse and Mental Health. Council Chair Joe Connor (left) presented the award and applauded the senator's desire to help assure services for Delaware's vulnerable populations. Renata Henry (right), Director, DSAMH



ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF



DCMHS Director Susan Ccyk took this snapshot of administrative support staff at the Terry Center on one of her many stops by our DCMHS facilities.

Pictured left to right are: Pat Wright, Carole McKinney, Marge DelleBuono and Carmella Anderson.

Respect in the Workplace

http://www.urisa.org/ethics/code_of_ethics.htm

At the website above, you can check out the code of ethics developed to guide geographic information system professionals to make appropriate and ethical choices. While in another field, this code is instructive and suggests:

- View persons who exemplify morality as your own guide
- Attempt to maximize the happiness of all affected
- Only follow maxims of conduct that all can adopt
- Always treat other persons as ends, never merely as means

Clinical Services Management Team Leaders Martha Gregor (l) and Peggy Spiegel (r) acknowledge the value of respect in the workplace and model it at work!



F.A.C.T. PROJECT UPDATE

TREMENDOUS PROVIDER AND STAFF RESPONSE TO THE POSITIVE BEHAVIOR INTERVENTION CERTIFICATE PROGRAM ~

SIXTY FOUR (64!!!) individuals are enrolled in the current course, eclipsing last year's number. This professional development certificate program was created by DCMHS with the U of D Center for Disabilities Studies to create capacity in a service new to DCMHS called Functional Behavior Analysis/Intervention. In addition to three course modules, participants complete a practicum, receive consultation/guidance in practice, complete readings, pass a written exam and are certified as competent by the instructor. Providers with staff participating in the current course include: DGS, Catholic Charities, SODAT, Tressler, Open Door, Pressley Ridge, People's Place, Bayhealth, Children and Families First Jewish Family Services, Terry Center/DCMHS. Others include Division of Family Services, Div. of Developmental Disabilities Services, Easter Seals, Delaware Autism Program, Keystone Service Bancroft Neurohealth and Dungavin.

DCMHS pays providers the outpatient rate for this new service in our public children's behavioral healthcare system.

DFS Update (Continued)

Regarding well-being, states are held accountable for providing services to meet children physical and mental health needs. Collaboration between DFS and CMH is developing and implementing mental health services for children in foster care. "Thank you to Drs. Roberta Ray and Tom Olson for providing training to our foster parents in the area of child mental health over the past several months," said Joe Smack of DFS.

Another area to be strengthened is maintaining relationships between child therapists and their clients. It is in a child's best interest to continue to see their therapist regardless of a disrupted placement.

As the Department develops a system of care model, collaboration among foster parents, service providers, professionals, etc is vital to its success. This type of collaboration is a perfect example of how the divisions work together to 'Think of the Child First'.

Young and old alike enjoy SilverLake's Fall Festival 2004



SilverLake held its Annual Fall Harvest Festival with its youth, family members and staff this year on November 17, 2004.



As always, the spirit of giving was evident ~ in food, in music and song and in relationships !!!



Update on State System of Care Committee

The State SOC team continues to meet on a monthly basis, and are making progress with the subcommittees addressing increasing our family partnerships, working on SOC practice models, increasing availability of appropriate community services, as well as outcome and evaluation. Two such examples of the kind of work the subcommittees are involved in include the SOC practice model subcommittee exploring ways in which SOC principles and practices intersect and interact with all levels of child welfare, including investigation through treatment. The outcome and evaluation group has been sketching out plans for how the Coordinated Service Review process can be more systematically integrated into agency outcome measures.

In addition, the team is reviewing progress on the SOC subcommittee of the Governor's Infant Mortality task force.

Other SOC updates have included summaries of the DSCYF/DOE/DHSS collaboration group, as well as the extensive SOC training efforts. The State team continues to provide feedback and direction regarding follow up SOC trainings. The team is very supportive of the Department's intentions of providing SOC training for the judicial officers and key legal staff.

To date, *nearly 1000 people have received the introductory training*, with about one third being representative of agencies other than the Children's Department. We are currently soliciting feedback from over 100 attendees who expressed interest in obtaining more information on how they can be part of the ongoing system transforma-



A Comprehensive System of Care to meet the needs of Delaware's

tion (across public and private agencies and partners).

Finally, the team has begun discussions regarding the importance of the State team closely monitoring both federal and state legislative system of care initiatives. The team feels strongly that this aspect is

very important if Delaware is going to stay up-to-date on SOC issues, and allow the state to be more proactive in promoting best practices as well as monitoring funding trends and opportunities.

Thanks to Marc Richman, SOC Committee co-chair for this update!

Advisory Council Update (continued from last page)

The Advisory Council is also very excited about the progress being made in the implementation of the department's System of Care approach to children's services. There have been demonstrated improved outcomes in other communities where a System of Care is in place. These outcomes are due to the earlier identification of children in need; and better care of the children that are the most needy when they are provided ser-

vices earlier in life. In general, the partnership between all the public and private agencies, as well as other community stakeholders and families receiving care creates a better safety net and service delivery system on behalf of the most vulnerable children.

We are pleased that the lifting of the hiring freeze allowed positions to be filled that are necessary to the important work of the Department. Thank you for that.

As you prepare the State's final Budget, I strongly urge you to be mindful that there is no funding proposed for any increases in the volume of service need, nor for other Department initiatives that could benefit our children. These initiatives include Respite Care and expansion of our Individualized Residential Services.

Your continued support of the work of the Children's Department is greatly appreciated. They are incredibly dedicated and talented people working towards a better quality of life for our state's children.

DCMHS Newsletter
WINTER 2004

37-03-101 N300
Delaware Youth and Family Center
1825 Faulkland Road
Wilmington, DE 19805
Phone: 302-633-2600
Fax: 302-633-5118
Email: nancy.widdoes@state.de.us

Affix
Mailing
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THINK OF THE CHILD FIRST!!!



DSCYF Strategic Initiatives

- **C**hild Focused System
- **H**olistic Services
- **I**nspired Workforce
- **L**eading Edge Management
- **D**edicated Partnerships

Child Mental Health Community Advisory Council News

Howard Isenberg, Executive Director of Open Door, Inc. chairperson of the DCMHS Community Advisory Council gave testimony in support of the proposed budget at the Children's Department's Nov. 23 Administration Budget Hearing in Dover.



Howard Isenberg and Tanya Carter, Council co-chairs, review the agenda a meeting

"The increased budget submitted by Secretary DeSantis and her staff this year, is very encouraging, as it will ensure that appropriate mental health and substance abuse services will be provide to all the children in the Department. This funding includes the extremely vital psychology services in the Detention Centers, the increase in Therapeutic Foster Care, Behavioral Assessment in Foster Care, an additional Intensive Outpatient Program, and the Day Treatment Program in Sussex County. All of these are department initiatives that improve services and add to the development of the state's System of Care. (please go to p. 15 to continue)

WELCOME to new DCMHS Council Members:

- **Julia Pearce**, Chair of the DFS Advisory Council and Executive Director of the Delaware Child Placement Review Board.
- **Shiobhan Gannon**, representing the Latin American Community Center.