



Pennsylvania Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory Committee

Ensuring that coordinated and effective mental health services are available for all young children across the commonwealth

Mission and Vision

Mission: Ensuring that coordinated and effective mental health services are available for all young children across the commonwealth.

Vision: Because every child is Pennsylvania's future we envision all young children will have a strong social emotional foundation on which to grow.

Activities/Progress 2010- 2011

The members of the Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory Committee met on December 8, 2010 and March 1, 2011. At the December meeting, Dr. James Guevara presented on *Translating Evidenced-Based Developmental Screening into Pediatric Primary Care* in which he discussed research design, use of MCHAT and ASQ-SE and other screening tools, and research findings. The committee is recruiting additional family members, developing member orientation materials, and discussing ways to facilitate better involvement of members from all parts of the commonwealth. Four workgroups are engaged in carrying out the committee's mandate and helping to implement the 2009 recommendation: Communication and Collaboration, Prevention and Intervention, Workforce Development, and Systems Opportunities. In addition, the committee is exploring ways to increase family engagement.

Current Action Items:

- The committee has targeted parents and other caregivers for recruitment and has been highly effective in identifying perspective members.
- The committee continues to await action by the department regarding enhancements to the HealthChoices medical necessity criteria for ECMH to facilitate rapid interventions where needed.
- Members of the committee are engaged with the current Heinz Foundation Endowment targeting training of professionals in the evidence-based Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT) model.
- Members of the committee are engaged with the Departments of Public Welfare and Education in developing the use of the evidence-based Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support (PBIS) model in early care and education settings.
- The committee continues to provide information about its work and to promote healthy social and emotional development of young children through the OMHSAS web portal www.parecovery.org and the PATTAN and PaKeys websites.
- The committee looks forward to working with OMHSAS and OCDEL to identify data sets from PELICAN and PROMISE that will provide outcome and planning information for use by the ECMH Advisory, OMHSAS, OCDEL and SICC.
- The committee is actively promoting the observance in communities across the commonwealth of National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day on Tuesday, May 3, 2011. This year's focus is on building resilience in young children dealing with trauma (see attached factsheet).

History

The ECMH Advisory committee received its charge from Department of Public Welfare Secretary Estelle Richman in May 2008 at a meeting hosted by four program offices in the Department of Public Welfare: Office of Child Development and Early Learning, Office of Children, Youth and Families, Office of Medical Assistance Programs, and Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. The committee's formation represents a completed outcome for the December 2007 Infant-Toddler Mental Health Symposium, also hosted by the Department of Public Welfare.

Structure

Currently there are 65 listed voting members from across the commonwealth. The committee's work is overseen by Michele Walsh, ECMH project manager with PA Key and a steering committee representing Department of Public Welfare program offices, the Department of Health, and subcommittee chairpersons.

The committee recently re-elected its two chairpersons:

Connell O'Brien, policy specialist at the PA Community Providers' Association, and Leigh Carlson-Hernandez, parent

Next meeting: June 7, 2011

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare

Office of Child Development and Early Learning · Office of Children, Youth and Families · Office of Developmental Programs
Office of Medical Assistance Programs · Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services



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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE