



# Pennsylvania Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory Committee

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

May 2011

Dear members of the Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory Committee,

The next meeting of the Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory Committee was scheduled to be held on June 7, 2011. This letter is to inform you that this meeting has been cancelled in light of the ongoing administrative transition in the Department of Public Welfare. The Department is examining all advisory committees as part of its effort to create a more efficient and cost-effective system. All DPW program offices as well as many local programs are working hard to be fiscally responsible and to use technology to save money. You'll recall that at our March meeting, we discussed other options for our meetings, including conference call and regional meetings.

Since the ECMH Advisory Committee was formed in 2008, we accomplished a great deal to fulfill our mission of "ensuring that coordinated and effective mental health services are available for all young children across the commonwealth."

The accomplishments of the advisory committee are the result of the hard work and dedication of all of our members. We intend to work with the new administration to build on these accomplishments, continue our work, and clearly articulate how we can help change and improve outcomes for young children and their families. We have successfully established relationships with the Early Learning Council, State Interagency Coordinating Council, and the Children's Advisory Committee for the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and regularly report to those groups. Some members of the ECMH Advisory Committee are in the process of establishing a Pennsylvania chapter of the World Infant Mental Health Association. The Pennsylvania Community Providers Association is re-invigorating its early childhood mental health workgroup which has included many members of our advisory committee. The key question for us to consider is how we can work creatively to sustain the coalition of early childhood mental health advocates that has emerged across the state.

The steering committee plans to meet via conference call in July to discuss next steps and set the agenda for the full committee meeting. Our next full committee meeting is scheduled for September 6, 2011; meeting format will be sent to members prior to the meeting date. Thank you for your efforts on behalf of young children and their families. Your passion and dedication are much appreciated and have accomplished a lot!

Sincerely,

Connell O'Brien  
Professional co-chair

Leigh Carlson-Hernandez  
Parent co-chair

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## 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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