

**OMHSAS Advisory Committee  
January 7, 2010  
Children's Committee  
Meeting Outcomes**

<u>Agenda Items</u>	<u>Major Discussion Points/Decisions</u>	<u>Follow-up Needed and Person(s) Responsible</u>
Welcome and Introductions	Mary Ann Donovan and Bernadette Bianchi, co-chairs, welcomed all to the meeting, and everyone introduced themselves.	
Approval of Meeting Outcomes	The meeting outcomes of November 5, 2009 were approved (Deb Neifert moved, Mike Reber seconded).	
Member Spotlight	Crystal Karenchak described her family's experiences with the mental health system.	
Youth Subcommittee Update	Derrick Carter reported. The subcommittee is providing input to the psychotropic meds and social networking workgroups. Meetings will likely begin to be open sunshine attendees and other guests. There was also further discussion regarding the proposed peer support specialist for 14-17 as a supplemental service, and developing curriculum, and a best practices document for providers on peer support. The subcommittee also discussed developing a protocol for the subcommittee, which will then be submitted to the advisory executive committee for approval.	
OMHSAS Updates	<p>Stan Mrozowski and others reported.</p> <p><b>Children's Bureau update document:</b> In response to a question about whether the update is a useful document, members were encouraged to complete survey indicating how it could be approved. Immediate suggestions included better highlighting the areas where more family involvement is needed and promoting the Network of Care web site. Two additional regular updates were recommended by Paulette Hunter on bulletins and legislation; the suggestion was made to distribute these to all members of the joint advisory committee</p> <p><b>Call for Change:</b> A companion document to the adult "Call for Change" is being developed focusing on children, in support of transformation goal of being more youth-guided and family-</p>	<p>OMHSAS and co-chairs to follow up on recommendation for additional updates</p> <p>OMHSAS to solicit additional</p>

driven. Mercer Consulting is researching and developing the document. Stakeholder groups will be consulted for input and a draft will be available for consideration in March, with the final document coming in May. Committee members were invited to submit ideas for stakeholder groups as well as suggest names for membership on the advisory committee, keeping in mind the need to increase diversity. There was also a request for significant involvement from the children's advisory committee in developing the draft.

**System of Care:** An overview of the grant project was distributed. Weekly training sessions have begun with all the new grantee states, plus a three-day training in Washington in February. Recruiting is being done for the project director and family and youth members to be part of state leadership team. The first year of the grant is for strategic planning. The practice model to be implemented is high-fidelity wraparound, so the leadership team will be working with the Youth and Family Training Institute.

**Youth and Family Training Institute:** An end-of-the-year summary was distributed. The December 2009 edition of the *PA CASSP* Newsletter features high fidelity wraparound and is available online at [http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/Resources/Documents/Pdf/Publications/CASSPNwsltr/CASSP\\_Dec2009.pdf](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/Resources/Documents/Pdf/Publications/CASSPNwsltr/CASSP_Dec2009.pdf)

**Out-of-State placements:** The ongoing commitment with the Office of Children, Youth and Families on action steps was emphasized. In response to frustration expressed with the seeming inability to regular reports of the number of Pennsylvania children who are placed out of state, OMHSAS staff noted that this is not something that only OMHSAS has control over but they will continue to try to get the data.

**Early Childhood Mental Health:** The Office of Child Development and Early Learning recently expanded number of ECMH consultants to 14 positions distributed among the six Regional Keys. There is significant support from Harriet Dichter, the new acting DPW secretary, for early childhood mental health. Additional parents and family members are needed for the ECMH advisory committee, and there is a goal for increased diversity. The ECMH advisory committee recommendations are being presented in various places. Committee members expressed the need for even more expansion of ECMH consultation, especially beyond Keystone Stars facilities, as well as for a "clearinghouse" of information about professionals and providers who specialize in early childhood issues.

**Act 62:** Most children are now in the system as of January 1; somewhere between 2000-6000 children are eligible under Act 62. The major barrier remaining is a few private insurers who have

suggestions for stakeholder groups to consult for input; committee members to submit potential names for advisory committee from under-represented groups

OMHSAS to continue to try to get data reports on out-of-state placements

	<p>decided they don't want to cover services in school settings (e.g., TSS); there is now proof that such services have been denied and there have been appeals. It is important for people with private insurance whose services are being denied need to appeal. Forums continue to be held about Act 62; check with your county. Certification for behavior support specialist is in the works: <a href="http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/Autism/Act62/BehaviorSpecialists/">http://www.dpw.state.pa.us/ServicesPrograms/Autism/Act62/BehaviorSpecialists/</a></p>	
Workgroup Meetings	<p>The workgroups met for about 45 minutes.</p> <p><b>Public Health:</b> The workgroup hopes to hold an all-day meeting to talk more extensively about what it means to have a public health approach to children's mental health to help to develop a framework for the committee's work.</p> <p><b>Cross-Systems:</b> Work continues on defining acronyms and developing a one-stop shopping toolkit. It was noted that it is important to know what is already available from other systems regarding acronyms, etc., and to develop a core document that crosses all systems and is consistent in language, acronyms, etc.</p> <p><b>Youth and Family Advocacy:</b> Discussion continues on making known what resources are available in each county; for example, advocacy groups are listed on the PA Families Incorporated web site and through Network of Care. Cross-systems training for advocates is being developed to assist families in where to go for information. The suggestion was made to include in the children's bureau update what systems are involved and where family/youth are from geographically. Conference call is scheduled for Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from 1pm-2:30pm. The call-in information is: <u>Local</u>- 717-705-0497 <u>Long Distance</u>- 1-800-722-0268</p>	
Residential Toolkit Update	<p>Sallie Lynagh reported from the Continuum of Care workgroup which recommended the development of a residential toolkit that covers the scope of residential facilities and handles complex issues in easy-to-understand language. There is also a potential need for a companion toolkit for youth, or perhaps youth issues should be woven in throughout the document. Committee members interested in being part of the workgroup should contact Sallie. A draft will be available for comment later this year.</p>	
Next meeting	March 4, 2010	