



Pennsylvania Early Childhood Mental Health Advisory Committee

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

Report to the Early Learning Council February 25, 2010

Activities/Progress to Date FY 2009- 2010

During the past quarter the ECMH Advisory Committee Workgroups completed action plans detailing implementation strategies and means of measure for each recommendation. To advance the recommendations committee members developed promotional materials on the ECMH competencies, developed an ECMH listserv, delivered regular reports to the OMHSAS Advisory Board and the SICCC and is working in collaboration with the SICCC's Higher Education Consortium to compile a comprehensive list of Higher Education programs with and ECMH focus.

ECMH recommendations regarding core competencies of child serving professionals, reflective supervision and ECMH consultation were adopted by the Pennsylvania Infant Toddler Systems Group and incorporated into their recommendations "Improving the Development of Pennsylvania's Infants and Toddlers".

Next Steps

The Committee will meet two more times (March and June) this fiscal year. The March meeting will focus on strategies to sustain the ECMH focus and advisory committee structure into the next administration. The committee intends to invite Acting Secretary of Public Welfare, Harriet Dichter, and DPW Office Deputy Secretaries to the June meeting to present progress made toward the implementation of the ECMH recommendations.

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.

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.

Structure

Currently there are 62 listed voting members from across the commonwealth. The committee's work is overseen by Michele Walsh, ECMH project manager with PA Key and a six member steering committee. Members of the steering committee represents families, providers, advocacy groups and the offices of the Department of Public Welfare.

The committee has two elected chair persons: **Connell O'Brien**, policy specialist, and **Leigh Carlson-Hernandez**, parent

The committee has recently added representatives from the Department of Health and the Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians, and is continuing efforts to recruit Parent Members.

The committee is divided into three work groups each with a chairperson and a set of working priorities:

- A. Communication/Collaboration** - Michele Myers Cepicka – chairperson
- B. Prevention/Intervention**- Roxy Woloszyn- chairperson
- C. Workforce Development** – Karen Rodgers – chairperson

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

