

Children's Respite Update April 30, 2009

On January 28, 2009, a County Administrator's Advisory Committee meeting was held. During this meeting, Deputy Secretary Joan Erney and Children's Bureau Director Stan Mrozowski reviewed expenditure reports of the Allocated Respite Funds through the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2008-2009 and compared them to the yearly expenditures of Fiscal Year 2007-2008. The data indicated that several counties were utilizing their respite allocation while other counties were not.

It had been decided that County/Joiners spending less than 30% of the allocation through the 2nd quarter, would be responsible for one of two options:

1. Provide documentation showing how the Respite Allocation will be spent by the end of the 2008-2009 Fiscal Year.
2. Return either the full amount or partial amount of their allocated respite funds that the County/Joiner knew they were unable to spend. These funds would then be re-distributed to other County/Joiners that would be able to spend the funds prior to the end of the Fiscal Year.

A total of 10 County/Joiners chose to return either part or the full amount of their respite allocation totaling \$40,481. This amount was then re-distributed to 16 County/Joiners who requested additional funds.

Third Quarter reporting forms were due on April 20, 2009. With six counties/joiners outstanding, \$261,152.65 of the total \$500,000 of allocated respite funds have been spent. Eleven (11) Counties/Joiners have spent over 90% of their funds through the 3rd quarter.

A Respite Development Workgroup meeting is being held on Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at the Child Welfare Training Program located in Mechanicsburg, PA. The focus of this meeting is to review the 3rd quarter reporting form data and to review the ***Recommended Guidelines for Counties Respite Services for Families with Children in the Behavioral Health System*** which is distributed to Counties/Joiners at the beginning of each fiscal year.

If you have any questions about the information above or are interested in becoming a member of the Respite Development Workgroup please feel free to contact Crystal Doyle, OMHSAS – Bureau of Children's Behavioral Health Services, 717-705-8397 or crdoyle@state.pa.us.