

OMHSAS Children's Service Retreat  
April 28 – 29, 2007

Brief Report

A major goal for OMHSAS is transformation of the children's behavioral health system in Pennsylvania to a system that is family driven and youth guided. Priorities include establishment of High Fidelity Wraparound, and development of other evidence based home, school, and community practices.

On April 28 and 29, 2009, OMHSAS convened a gathering of representatives from counties and their behavioral health managed care organizations for a retreat on children's services. OMHSAS staff, as well as youth and family representatives from the OMHSAS Children's Advisory Committee also participated. Representatives from Mercer Human Services Consulting, which has provided technical assistance for the Health Choices initiative, served as facilitators of the Retreat.

The consensus of the group is that while the current children's behavioral health system is quite extensive, access as well as quality can be improved. With the expansion of Health Choices statewide, there are opportunities to share ideas and make changes that will benefit children and their families across the Commonwealth.

There were numerous proposed recommendations that came out of the Retreat. These included recommendations for administrative efficiencies and for programmatic improvements. OMHSAS staff will pull together the proposed recommendations and identify potential implementation strategies.

OMHSAS staff will also engage the broader stakeholder community in discussions about a "Call for Change," similar to the effort that has served as the primary guide for transformation of the adult service system. This Call for Change will provide the principles on which transformation of the children's system can occur. The OMHSAS Children's Advisory Committee will be the primary forum for this effort.