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To: Providers of Children's Behavioral Health Services  
APS Health Care  
Disability Rights Maine  
Family Organizations

### **OCFS/CBHS Informational Newsletter**

A lot of work has been going on in the Children's Behavioral Health Unit within the Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS). We are excited to share the information with you and bring you and your ideas into the process as we move toward the future. In following with the OCFS Vision Statement, "All youth in Maine will grow up to be productive community members. We achieve this by keeping youth safe, structuring services and supports to help create a successful transition to adulthood and by finding stable and permanent homes." CBHS has been laying the foundation to support and ensure that providers have the structured support you need in order to provide adequate services and supports to children and families. The following is a summary of this foundation to date.

#### **Policy**

Draft Policies are underway for Section 28, Section 97 and Section 65, HCT; We anticipate within the next few months, you will be invited to join stakeholder groups to finalize these and work with the office of Maine Care (OMS) and move forward.

- **Section 28**: One particular focus of the work concerns specialized. Maine is researching the way that BCBA time is billed to Medicaid in other states. We would like to establish a standalone rate for BCBA services if possible.
- **HCT**: HCT Standards language has been created, along with some language that is currently in OCFS contracts which will be written into the Maine Care Policy
- **Section 97**: Draft language is still being created.

For more information regarding policy please contact [paul.maheux@maine.gov](mailto:paul.maheux@maine.gov).

#### **Children's Behavior Regulations**

The Children's Behavioral Regulations are based on the ID/DD/Autism parts of the statute (34-B MRSA Sections 5601-5610) and govern behavior plans for these children. These regulations have been updated and are being prepared for promulgation which will lead to a public process. In the mean time OCFS, DRM and the Office of the AAG have been drafting a new Children's Statute that would cover all children regardless of their diagnosis. For more information please contact [Rachel.posner@maine.gov](mailto:Rachel.posner@maine.gov).

### Targeted Case Management

OCFS is looking at ways to incorporate key features for Person-Centered Planning (PCP) process that OADS uses into children's Targeted Case Management. We will be calling stakeholders together to help us update the 2005 Children's Targeted Case Management Practice Guidelines to include the PCP process. For more information please contact [Teresa.barrows@maine.gov](mailto:Teresa.barrows@maine.gov)

### Partnering For Success

In 2014, Maine was selected as an implementation site for the Partnering for Success (PFS) Initiative by the National Center for Evidenced-Based Practice in Child Welfare <http://www.ncebpcw.org/>. The partner agency for this project is Sweetser <http://www.sweetser.org>. PFS is an intervention model that builds clinical capacity to deliver evidenced-based mental health services to child welfare involved children and families. CBT+ is the model that is the focus for this implementation and is currently being delivered in Districts 1 and District 4. For more information please contact [Paul.maheux@maine.gov](mailto:Paul.maheux@maine.gov)

### Child Welfare Title IV-E Waiver Demonstration

As the result of an RFP, Maine will begin implementation of a new project in April 2016 that will combine two strongly Evidence-Based Treatments for families with children 0-5 involved with Child Welfare. The project combines Matrix Intensive Outpatient programming with the Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) to achieve positive outcomes. Agencies involved will be The Opportunity Alliance in Region 1 with Crossroads as a partner, and in Region 3, Wellspring with partner agencies CHCS and AMHC. Formal training for direct care staff occurred during the last two weeks. For more information on these two projects please contact [paul.maheux@maine.gov](mailto:paul.maheux@maine.gov).

### Collaborative Case Planning

One particular challenge within our children's behavioral health system of care is being able to safely treat youth with significant aggression. In an effort to develop strong partnerships and collaborate across systems, (DOC, DOE, Psychiatric Hospitals, Emergency Departments, and Crisis) we have created a monthly meeting/workgroup consisting of stakeholders with a shared purpose of serving these youth with challenging behaviors. For more information please contact [lynn.m.witten@maine.gov](mailto:lynn.m.witten@maine.gov)

### Resource Coordination Update

Rachel Posner, Resource Coordination Team Leader oversees three Resource Coordinators statewide and one Family Information Specialist. This unit is currently developing resources primarily in Section 28 services and is working closely with APS Healthcare on children who have been authorized to receive services, yet do not have full access. For more information please contact [Rachel.posner@maine.gov](mailto:Rachel.posner@maine.gov).

### Program Coordination Update

Elaine Provencher has recently taken on the role of Supervisor/Team Leader of the ten Program Coordinators across the state. The primary responsibility of these staff is to ensure that children with behavioral health care needs have access and receive the most effective services in the least restrictive environment from childhood through to adulthood. For more information please contact [elaine.provencher@maine.gov](mailto:elaine.provencher@maine.gov).

### Clinical Coordination Team

Currently this team, consisting of five Care Specialists (one currently vacant), is directly overseen by Teresa Barrows. Jennifer Dondero will begin April 4 as the Clinical Supervisor/Team Leader for this unit. These staff are responsible for ensuring that Mainecare Children's Behavioral Health Treatment Services are effective. One staff is following up on any serious/dangerous event, as well as on restraints and rights violations. Two staff who are nurses and are working with District Child Welfare staff to decrease the use of psychotropic medication in children in the custody of the department. For more information please contact [Teresa.barrows@maine.gov](mailto:Teresa.barrows@maine.gov).

### Now is the Time, Moving Forward Transition to Independence Grant

In 2014, SAMHSA launched a new grant opportunity in response to President Obama's plan to reduce gun violence. The purpose of this program is to improve access to treatment and support services for youth and young adults ages 16-25 that either have or at risk of developing a serious mental health condition. Moving Forward is currently providing Transition to Independence (TIP) Case Management Services in Androscoggin, Cumberland and Penobscot Counties. The grant also involves early intervention for youth who are experience first episodes of psychosis. These services are currently being provided in Androscoggin, Cumberland and York Counties. For more information please contact [alice.preble@maine.gov](mailto:alice.preble@maine.gov).

### Transition to Adulthood

OCFS and OADS—Office of Aging and Disability Services have created a process for children's Targeted Case Managers to electronically refer youth to adult services. Staff review all youth 16 and older who currently receive children's behavioral health services and would like assistance in planning for adulthood. This is only a beginning and a work in progress, It will be expanded over time to include any and all adult resources for youth including employment opportunities. For more information please contact [Teresa.barrows@maine.gov](mailto:Teresa.barrows@maine.gov).

### Homeless Youth and Community Services Block Grant

The CBHS Unit oversees the program aspects of the Homeless youth contracts and the CAP agencies Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). For more information please contact [Teresa.barrows@maine.gov](mailto:Teresa.barrows@maine.gov)

### Children's Federal Mental Health Block Grant

The CBHS Unit writes and oversees the MHBG. These are monies that are awarded to Family Organizations across the state to provide peer/parent support to children and families across the state. The position is currently vacant; an new person will be hired within the next couple of weeks and will oversee these programs; be responsible for the MHBG and be available to write and plan for new grant opportunities. For more information please contact [Teresa.barrows@maine.gov](mailto:Teresa.barrows@maine.gov).

### Georgetown University

CBHS is currently receiving technical assistance from Georgetown University to further develop Maine's Children's System of Care including choosing and adopting one assessment tool, most likely the Children and Adolescent Needs and Strengths Inventory (CANS), which is currently being used in our children's Targeted Case Management programs. We are looking to expand the use of this tool. We will be including stakeholders in our work with Georgetown in a few months. For more information please contact [Teresa.barrows@maine.gov](mailto:Teresa.barrows@maine.gov)