



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING




JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 14, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Intermediate and Local School District Superintendents and Special Education Directors, and Public School Academy Administrators

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction 

SUBJECT: Information Regarding the System of Care for Children and Their Families

Attached is a letter from Mr. Michael J. Head, Director, Department of Community Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Administration, regarding the system of care planning processes now being required of local Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs) for children with serious emotional disturbance and children with developmental disabilities and their families.

The goal of these planning processes is to increase access to mental health services and supports. Mr. Head has requested local CMHSPs to take the lead in working with local system partners and parents to assure that local systems of care planning processes include addressing the needs of these children and their families.

It is encouraged that local education authorities, intermediate school district superintendents and special education directors join with the CMHSPs in these planning efforts to assure connection to other planning efforts ongoing in the community.

Attachment

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STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

JANET OLSZEWSKI
DIRECTOR

March 26, 2009

In order to achieve better outcomes for children and families, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), Mental Health and Substance Abuse Administration (MH/SA) is committed to the development of a System of Care for children with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) and for children with Developmental Disabilities (DD) and their families across the state and to supporting communities as they build local Systems of Care. At the state level, we are meeting on a regular basis with our state system partners to increase opportunities and reduce impediments to collaboration at the local level.

We recognize that a number of communities are already engaged in System of Care planning for children via their local Community Collaborative, Great Start Collaborative, and/or other local collaborative groups. With the issuance of the MDCH Program Policy Guidelines (PPGs) and the Application for Renewal and Recommitment (ARR), MDCH is now requiring Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs) to take leadership in their communities to assure System of Care planning occurs for both children with SED and children with DD and their families.

Local CMHSPs are asked to engage with and partner with stakeholders (local Agency directors or their representative that can make decisions on behalf of their organization, Family Court Judge and families) to engage in the System of Care planning to ensure the local planning occurs for the mental health services component of the System of Care for children with SED and their families and to initiate System of Care planning with agency stakeholders and families for children with DD and their families when that is not occurring. We are requesting that you join with your CMHSP in this joint planning process which has the goal to improve the access to an array of community-based mental health services for children with DD and children with SED with a focus on Medicaid-eligible children/youth in other systems (Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice) that meet the criteria for CMHSP services.

Attached for your information are brief overviews of the System of Care, PPGs, and the ARR document. If you have any questions, please contact Sheri Falvay, Director of Mental Health Services to Children and Families, at falvay@michigan.gov, or at 517-241-5762.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Head, Director
Mental Health and Substance Abuse Administration

c: Sheri Falvay
Amy Winans
Dohn Hoyle
Mark Reinstein
Susan McParland
CMHSP Directors
PIHP Directors

System of Care for Children and their Families

A community System of Care for children/youth and their families is the organization of public and private service components within the community into a comprehensive and interconnected network in order to accomplish better outcomes for children/youth.

Background:

Since 2006, the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), through the Children's Block Grant Request for Proposals (RFPs), has asked Community Mental Health Services Programs (CMHSPs) to join with their local partners in the development of a System of Care for children with serious emotional disturbance (SED). With the issuance of the PPGs¹ and the ARR² in February 2009, MDCH is now requiring all CMHSPs to engage in a System of Care planning process with their partners to focus on both children with SED and children with developmental disabilities (DD) and their families.

Currently:

CMHSPs are asked to take leadership to develop a System of Care for children. Partners/Stakeholders are to be Agency Directors or their representatives that can make decisions/commitments on behalf of their organization/agency. Parents and youth are **required** stakeholders. Local efforts need to coordinate with the Community Collaborative and other planning efforts underway for children (e.g., Great Start Collaborative, Local Interagency Coordinating Council, etc.).

It is anticipated that by completing the System of Care planning process, there will be improved access to an array of community-based mental health services for children/youth with DD and children/youth with SED with a **focus** on Medicaid-eligible children/youth in other systems (Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice) that meet the criteria for CMHSP services.

Outcomes:

The anticipated system-level outcomes for children and their families include:

- **Development and maintenance of an array of services and supports**
- **Improved access to mental health services**
- **Services are provided in the home, community**
- **Blended resources increase the total dollars available for mental health services**

The anticipated child- and family-level outcomes for children and their families include:

- **Children improve in functioning, and behavioral concerns are reduced**
- **Children improve in their school attendance and grade achievement**
- **Children have fewer contacts with law enforcement and have few subsequent contacts with juvenile justice system**
- **Parents of children report reduced strain associated with care for children with SED/DD and improvement in overall family functioning.**

After the initial planning this spring/summer for the System of Care, the partners/stakeholders will begin to implement their action strategies (including their local priorities) for the System of Care for children and their families in the fall of 2009.

¹ Program Policy Guidelines (PPGs) are issued by MDCH, per the Mental Health Code, to meet the requirement for a community, stakeholder and consumer "voice" in the planning and allocation of resources. The PPGs are issued to meet this requirement and legislative reporting requirements and to provide statewide policy direction.

² Application for Renewal and Recommitment (ARR) has been issued by MDCH. It introduces new and enhanced expectations of performance, and revitalizes the Department's commitment to excellence in the priorities and directions outlined in the previously released Concept Paper (August 2008). The ARR also meets the commitment that Michigan would select local managing entities that promote beneficiary freedom, participation and integration, while achieving system outcomes of efficiency, choice and community inclusion.