



Ohio Department of Mental Health

30 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43215-3430

DATE: 7/28/09 NUMBER: C-07-10-10 ORIGINATOR & TITLE: Kay K Rietz, Assistant Deputy Director

OFFICE:
Office of Children's Services

APPROVED BY: *[Signature]*
Debbie Nixon-Hughes, MSW, LISW, Deputy Director: Division of Program and Policy Development

DISTRIBUTION:

BHO's Boards Provider Agencies Shareholder Organizations

SUBJECT:

Allocations Certification Community Plan Critical Information
 Licensure MACSIS Medicaid Policy
 Procedure Other (specify):

TITLE OF CORRESPONDENCE: Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation FY 2010

CONTENT:

Purpose

The purpose of the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (ECMHC) Program for FY 2010 is to identify and address early childhood behavioral health needs in subsidized child care and Head Start settings in high risk, low-income communities. Funds appropriated for ECMHC will continue to be allocated to the ADAMH/CMH Boards.

Background

ODMH implemented the Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program in 2000. The primary goal of ECMHC is to increase knowledge, awareness, resources and skills necessary for communities to meet the behavioral health needs of young children and their families. The program's objectives are to build protective factors in young children, increase parents' skills and promote the competencies of early childhood providers, especially relating to children ages birth to six years who are at risk for abuse, neglect and poor social/emotional health. ECMHC aims to achieve healthy social and emotional development for all young children in Ohio to ensure they thrive and are ready for school.

Current Issues

The Social and Emotional Workgroup of the Early Childhood Cabinet recommended that funding for FY 2010 be narrowed in focus to provide consultation services in low income and high risk areas and would include only subsidized child care and Head Start settings. Children identified as being at risk of expulsion from an early care setting will remain a priority.

ODJFS provided a list of all child care centers in Ohio. This information was used to create a list of centers that would be eligible to receive services in FY 2010. All Head Start programs are eligible as are all child care centers serving at least 10 infants, toddlers and/or preschool children who are

receiving some government subsidy. Providers are expected to use this information to prioritize the settings to be offered the consultation services.

Program funds should be focused on universal prevention and intervention and are intended to drive classroom change. Quality of services, rather than mere quantity, is important. Written agreements between the service provider and the center receiving services are required and must be shared with the funding Board.

Each Board and its funded providers will be required to submit a signed agreement assuring compliance with the ECMHC Guidelines as well as the ECMHC Guidelines for Data Collection, including directions for submitting data and reports.

Funding

For each of the past 4 years, \$2,500,000 per year has been allocated for the ECMHC Program. For FYs 2010 and 2011, ODJFS has dedicated \$2,150,000 per year from federal Quality Child Care funds for the ECMHC Program. For FYs 2010 and 2011, ODMH will add program funding of \$200,000 per year, for a total ECMHC Program funding amount of \$2,350,000 per year.

All 50 ADAMH/CMH Boards are eligible to receive funding.

Guidelines, forms and additional information may be found on the ODMH website at: <http://mentalhealth.ohio.gov/what-we-do/provide/children-youth-and-families/early-childhood/index.shtml>

REQUIRED ACTION:

Each Board and its funded providers will be required to submit a signed agreement (attached) to ODMH assuring compliance with the ECMHC Guidelines as well as the ECMHC Guidelines for Data Collection, including directions for submitting data and reports.

DATES FOR REQUIRED ACTION:

This Agreement must be signed and returned to ODMH, attention Marla Himmeger, no later than September 30, 2009. ***** Failure to timely return the signed Agreement by this date will result in a reduction of \$2000 to the Board's total ECMHC FY 2010 allocation. *****

NAME, TELEPHONE NO., AND EMAIL OF CONTACT PERSON(S):

Marla Himmeger

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