

September 22, 2014

Office of Developmental Programs amends Administrative Operating Agreement

At the September 17 County Administrators Advisory Committee meeting, the Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) stated they will amend the existing Administrative Entity (AE) Operating Agreement (OA). The amendment is to incorporate the Office of Vocational Resources (OVR) new referral requirements, which permit the authorization of prevocational and transitional work services without making a referral to OVR. The signed amendment is to be submitted by December 1, 2014.

New Mental Health Procedures Act Introduced

Although the legislators have few scheduled days left during this sine die session, another legislative proposal to change the Mental Health Procedures Act. Senator Greenleaf (R-12) introduced [Senate Bill 1470](#) to establish new mental health procedures and includes provisions for individuals with mental illness involved with the criminal justice system and assisted outpatient.

The bill is based on recommendations made in the Joint State Government Committee's report - [Violence Prevention in Pennsylvania: Report of the Advisory Committee on Violence Prevention](#). The bill was introduced and referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee on September 15, 2014.

Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to Study Transition of Youth with Autism Spectrum Disorder

The Legislative Budget and Finance Committee will research information available on the future number of adults enrolled in school. They will create a plan to provide home and community based support and services to meet their needs. The bill was initially introduced in July and referred to Health. The bill was re-referred to Human Services September 17, 2014.

Department of Public Welfare Name Change to Department of Human Services

On September 17 the House of Representatives voted to concur with the Senate amendment made to [House Bill 993](#), which renames the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) to the Department of Human Services. The amendment required the department to create a toll-free fraud tip-line. The bill also stated that the name change to the various letterheads, plaques, badges, signs and other items designating the department's names should be phased in as their current utility ends rather than incur additional costs for extensive updates.

The governor has ten days to act on the legislation. Without any action, the legislation will become law.

Public Office of Developmental Programs Futures Survey

The Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) held a Maestro call to announce the release of a Public Futures Survey to collect additional information in their continued efforts to refine and create proposals to improve services and supports. [The materials are available electronically.](#)

The survey will collect information with the following methods:

- Through the ra-odpfuturesplan@apc.gov mailbox
- Through an online survey to be developed
- Through public forums to be scheduled the first two weeks of October

All responses are due to October 19 and the Extended Team is to review the information to shape the planning process in December.

[Statewide Transition Plan Toolkit for Alignment with the Home and Community-Based Services Final Regulation's Setting Requirements](#) was released September 5 to assist states in preparing their required transition plans. States are required to have a statewide transition plan for all the Medicaid 1915 (c) home and community based waivers, 1915 (i) State Plan home and community based services and 1915 (k) Community First Choice attendant care services. All these services must come into full compliance by March 17, 2019. Pennsylvania has ten waivers serving approximately 70 thousand individuals with a total expenditures over \$2.5 billion that must be addressed in the transition plan. The [Pennsylvania HCBS Transition Plan](#) is available at The Department of Human Services (formerly known as the Department of Public Welfare) website.

[Getting to Work: Promoting Employment of People with Mental Illness](#) is a report by the Bazelon Center detailing the benefits of supported employment services. The report describes the need for supported employment services, how the services are implemented, successful service outcomes and cost savings.

Nominate Your Colleagues for Recognition by PACA MH/DS

Members received the awards packets and nomination forms last week! Please consider nominating someone for one of the PACA MH/DS Awards. The deadline for submitting nominations will be **October 20, 2014**. Both regular and associate members are eligible to submit nominations as well as to be selected to win. Electronic submissions are strongly encouraged. The winners will be selected by a committee that includes representatives from each of the association's policy committees. The award categories are:

Innovation Award: For extraordinary, creative or transformative initiatives to sustain improvements in the oversight, administration or service delivery in mental health, intellectual disability or early intervention systems. Innovation projects should be ground breaking on a state wide level. Successful implementation of a proven practice is outside of the scope of this award.

Emerging Leadership Award: Recognizes a PACA MH/DS regular or associate member who has taken on formal or informal leadership roles in the association and in doing so has made outstanding contributions to advance the association's mission statement, goals and objectives.

Most Valuable Player Award: This award allows a regular member (administrator) to nominate a staff member for recognition of significant contributions to the county through consistently outstanding performance and a commitment to excellence in the field. If you have questions, please contact Lisa Zook (lzook@pacounties.org) or Vice President Deb Duffy (DDuffy@Joinder.org).

People and Places

Kristen Rotz has accepted a position as President of United Way of Pennsylvania. Her tenure with PACA MH/DS has reinvigorated the association's strategic actions in promoting community mental health and developmental disability services.

Carmine Scotece, Director of Butler County Human Services and member since 1987, will be retiring at the end of December 2014.

Jerome Alex, a long standing Fiscal Officer for Northumberland County BH/ID Services, will be retiring early in October. Carmine Picarelli will be transitioning to cover fiscal responsibilities as he continues to oversee mental health.

Brenda Mettley has retired after almost four decades as the Intellectual Disability Director in Lebanon County. Dawn Wolfe will fill the position.

ODP Communications - Please visit the [ODP AE Information Center](#) to view their Breaking News.

Association Events - Upcoming PACA MH/DS Events and links for online meeting registration can be found on [the PACA MH/DS homepage](#).