



Date: May 25, 2011

To: Senator Tom Patton

From: **Coalition of Stakeholders for Children's Mental Health**

Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies, Penny Wyman, Director
 The Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Services Providers, Hubert Wirtz, CEO
 National Alliance on Mental Illness – Ohio, Terry Russell, Executive Director
 Ohio Family Care Association, Betsy Johnson, Board President
 Public Children Services Association of Ohio, Crystal Ward Allen, Director
 Beech Brook, Mario Tonti, President
 Applewood Centers Inc., Melanie Falls, Executive Director
 Bellefaire Jewish Children's Bureau, Debbie Cowan, Director
 Berea Methodist Children's Home and Family Services, Richard Frank, CEO
 Catholic Charities and Parmadale Institute, Maureen Dee, Executive Director
 Cleveland Christian Home, Inc. David J. Lundeen, CEO
 Village Network, Jim Miller, Director
 The Buckeye Ranch, D. Nicholas Rees, President and Chief Executive Officer
 Voices for Ohio's Children, Amy Swanson, Director

Re: Ensuring access to Medicaid Community Behavioral Health Services for Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice involved Children

Attached is a copy of a letter that our Coalition has sent to Directors Plouck and Moody regarding the ODMH budget proposal to establish utilization limits on Medicaid mental health services. We appreciate your sensitivity to the significant impact this will have across the state, as well as in your district. Thank you for your assistance with this amendment.

5/26/11 (correct logos)



Date: May 25, 2011

To: Tracy Plouck, Director, Ohio Department of Mental Health
 Gregory Moody, Director, Governor's Office of Health Transformation

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The Coalition members support the healthcare transformation plan being developed in Ohio, and the elevation of Medicaid match to the state level for behavioral healthcare. We also recognize the need for reasonable utilization parameters for the use of mental health services, and the concerns that the department has expressed about this.

However, prior authorization policies that make sense in many circumstances often do not make sense for children and youth involved with child welfare and juvenile justice. By definition, the limits will impact those individuals who have the greatest utilization of services. Unlike most other Medicaid services, multidisciplinary planning and oversight exists, with significant professional and judicial oversight. While there is input from providers, the child welfare or juvenile justice system professionals are responsible for the decisions related to the level of services required. Both systems have significant pressure related to federal oversight systems (such as the federal Child and Family Services Review that specifically requires states to put aggressive plans in place to ensure timely access to quality behavioral healthcare for our child welfare involved children). Both systems include regular court oversight regarding the care and treatment plans for these children and youth. We'd suggest that this oversight satisfies your intent to be certain that the services are truly necessary for this subset of children and youth. In light of the degree of oversight, it seems reasonable to assume the services are medically necessary, so this limited exemption should not reduce the savings projected in H.B.153.

Thus, we respectfully request inclusion in the biennial budget, of the attached amendment that would exempt children and youth who are subject to the oversight of the child welfare system or the juvenile justice system, from additional prior authorization or service utilization limitations for Medicaid community mental health services.

We are happy to meet to address any concerns you might have. Please contact Crystal Ward Allen, Director PCSAO, crystal@pcsao.org or Gayle Channing Tenenbaum, gtenenb@aol.com Director of Policy and Governmental Affairs, PCSAO or Teresa Lampl, lampl@theohiocouncil.org Associate Director, Ohio Council of Behavioral Health & Family Service Providers.

Cc: Melissa Craddock, ODMH
Angie Bergefurd, ODMH
Anne Harnish, OHT

Attachment Amendment SC-3117

5/26/11 (correct logos)