

RCPA Children's Committee Meeting Wednesday, June 17, 2020 • 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

1:00 pm

Greetings (Susan/Mark)

- Introduction of Participants

Work Group Updates

- School Based
- Steering Committee Update
- Residential Services Group
- IBHS Work Group (Susan)

RCPA Updates – *Richard S. Edley, PhD, President/CEO*

Legislative Update – *Jack Phillips, Director, Government Affairs*

Telehealth RCPA Survey Review Discussion

- See [RCPA Telehealth Survey PowerPoint](#)

Systems Updates

- OCYF – Jim Sharp
- OMHSAS – Scott Talley/Courtney Malecki

Open Discussion/Wrap Up

Next Children's Committee meeting TBD (currently scheduled for Wednesday, October 7, 2020)

PA 2020–21 Budget Will Further Protect Vulnerable Populations

Governor Tom Wolf today outlined how his 2020–21 budget further demonstrates his commitment to protecting the most vulnerable Pennsylvanians by proposing to expand comprehensive training for direct care workers, reduce waiting lists for care, and increasing staff in specific service areas, including child welfare, among other key investments.

- 1.3 million boost to the Court Appointed Special Advocate Program, which seeks to ensure children who have experienced abuse or neglect have their voices heard in the courtroom.
- \$2.4 million in funding to support home visiting programs, which have been shown to prevent a slew of issues, like domestic violence and pre-term births.
- \$1 million in additional funding to combat food insecurity for 1.6 million Pennsylvanians through the Pennsylvania Agriculture Surplus System.
- \$8.1 million to help 1,700 older Pennsylvanians who are currently on the waiting list for in-home care through the OPTIONS program
- \$15 million to remove Pennsylvanians with an intellectual disability or autism from the emergency waitlist and instead provide them with community services.
- \$1.25 million to move 20 Pennsylvanians who need high levels of care from state institutions and into community settings through the Community Hospital Integration Projects Program.
- \$1 million to expand programs that provides legal services to vulnerable populations.
- \$1.4 million to increase reimbursements for Pennsylvanians who are on ventilators.
- \$1.2 million in funding to establish a new direct care worker training program.
- \$4 million to direct to our counties to support intellectual disability and autism programs.
- \$5.1 million to increase funding for staffing for the Department of Human Services.

Reach Out PA: Wolf Administration Seeks Input from Providers on Barriers to Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Harrisburg, PA – Governor Tom Wolf announced today that the Insurance Department, in partnership with multiple state agencies, released a survey asking health care providers for input on their experiences with barriers to mental health and substance use disorder treatment.

Under the governor's [Reach Out PA: Your Mental Health Matters](#) initiative, the Wolf Administration is undertaking a long-term, statewide campaign that seeks to educate and empower Pennsylvania providers and consumers about consumer rights under state and federal parity laws.

The Wolf Administration is looking for feedback from mental health and substance use disorder providers, as well as other providers who have heard from patients that they have run into barriers when seeking treatment. The survey, developed by a working group of staff from the Insurance Department, and departments of Health (DOH), Human Services (DHS), Drug and Alcohol Programs (DDAP), State, Aging, the Office of the Attorney General and the Governor's Office, will be sent to providers across the commonwealth.

Since its introduction at the beginning of the year, Reach Out PA efforts have included a new consumer [feedback form](#) launched on January 23, and publication of a proposed regulation to enhance mental health parity reporting requirements for commercial health insurers. In just 10 days, more than 1,000 Pennsylvanians have completed the online form, offering input and suggestions, many of which detail challenges to accessing mental health services and pointing to potential parity violations.