



MENTAL HEALTH BULLETIN

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE

DATE OF ISSUE

March 8, 1983

EFFECTIVE DATE

Immediately

NUMBER

99-83-10

SUBJECT

Payment of Residential Placement Costs for Mentally Retarded or Severely Emotionally Disturbed Children in Residential Facilities

BY

Jennifer L. Howse
Jennifer L. Howse, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary for Mental Retardation

BY

Scott H. Nelson
Scott H. Nelson, M.D.
Deputy Secretary for Mental Health

SCOPE: Regional MH Community Program Managers
Regional MR Commissioners
County MH/MR Administrators
State Center Directors
MR Unit Directors
Superintendents, State Hospitals
Hospital Service Area Managers
Community Residential Mental Retardation Facility Directors
Community Residential Rehabilitation Service Directors
County Children and Youth Directors
Base Service Unit Directors
DPW Headquarters Program and Administration Deputies

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Bulletin is to define the circumstances under which DPW will participate in the cost of residential care for mentally retarded or severely emotionally disturbed children.

BACKGROUND

There has been confusion in regard to the payment responsibilities of the Department of Public Welfare (DPW) and the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) in the placement of mentally retarded and severely emotionally disturbed children in residential facilities. This Bulletin describes the circumstances under which County MH/MR Programs may be reimbursed by DPW for residential placement costs.

APPLICATION

For purposes of this Bulletin, a child is defined as a mentally retarded or severely emotionally disturbed person under the age of 21 who is eligible for a free public education provided by the PDE.

A residential facility is defined as either a mental retardation facility licensed by the DPW Office of Mental Retardation under the Community Residential Mental Retardation Facilities Regulations 9054 or a

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

See Page 2

mental health residential facility licensed/approved by the DPW Office of Mental Health. In addition to room, board and supervision, a residential facility provides an active treatment or habilitation program based on a written plan specific to the needs of each individual resident.

Costs are eligible for DPW participation under the following conditions:

- a. The need for placement in a residential facility is ascertained by the County MH/MR Program and documented in the child's proposed service plan.
- b. The County MH/MR Program places the child in the residential facility. (Departmental funds will not be used to pay for the cost of care for direct placements by PDE)
- c. An appropriate education program is provided and/or funded by the PDE in accordance with Act 199 (Mental Retardation Bulletins 199-81-01 and 199-82-01).
- d. Payments made to a residential facility by the County MH/MR Program are in accordance with the Fiscal Manual Regulations Title 6100.
- e. The County MH/MR Program ensures that client liability and room and board are paid by the resident or the resident's legally responsible relative as appropriate in accordance with Department regulations.

Note: When County MH/MR program funds are to be used to pay for any portion of the costs for a child's care, the County Administrator's decision to approve placement must be governed by the availability of funds and the level of demand for services to other patients/clients (Title 5200-County MH/MR Program, Service Content of Program).

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Mel Knowlton, Director
Bureau of Program Development, OMR
302 Health and Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Telephone: (717) 783-5758; Network- 8-443-5758

or

Trevor Hadley, Ph.D., Director
Office of Community Programs, OMH
303 Health and Welfare Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Telephone: (717) 783-5132; Network- 8-443-5132