SCOPE:

County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Administrators
Early Intervention Program Directors
Intermediate Unit Executive Directors
Intermediate Unit Special Education Directors
Base Service Unit Directors
Intermediate Unit Preschool Supervisors

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this bulletin is to describe the circumstances under which Lekotek services may be funded with existing allocations through intermediate units and County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Programs.

BACKGROUND:

Lekotek is an international, non-profit organization, which engages in a diverse array of family-oriented intervention services serving children from birth through age 21. The mission of Lekotek is to foster the integration of children with disabilities into the mainstream of life. Lekotek has been recognized by such organizations as the United States Senate, United States House of Representatives, and the Beatrice Foundation. In 1988, the National Lekotek in Evanston, Illinois, was the recipient of the Freedom Foundation Award for the most outstanding program for children in the United States.

Lekotek administers a myriad of therapeutic activities such as: play therapy for families with disabled children, loan library of play materials, therapeutic and adaptive computer equipment and software, parent support and advocacy groups, workshops, recreation and social functions, lectures, and school integration programs. There are three Lekotek Centers operational in Pennsylvania located in the cities of Harrisburg, Scranton, and Philadelphia; several other centers are in the developmental stages.

COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO:

Mr. Mel Knowlton, Office of Mental Retardation, P.O. Box 2675, Harrisburg, PA, 17105 or (717) 783-5764 or Dr. Linda Rhen, Bureau of Special Education, 333 Market Street, 7th Floor, Harrisburg, PA, 17126 or (717) 783-6913.
DISCUSSION:

The following allocations may be used to fund the Lekotek program:

1. Birth through two years - early intervention allocations through County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Programs.

2. Ages three through five - early intervention allocations through the intermediate units.

3. Birth through 21 years of age - family support allocations through County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Programs.

This bulletin does not imply that additional funding is available for this purpose. Lekotek providers are required to become affiliated member of the National Lekotek Organization, and all personnel must complete their training course before services begin.