

Internship Program

PROJECT TITLE:

Out-of-State Placement Committee

Contact: Allison Campbell x41684 cocfacc@omh.state.ny.us

PUBLIC HEALTH AND MCH SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROJECT:

The Out-of-State Placement Committee is responsible for addressing critical concerns around the referral and placement of NYS children in out-of-state residential schools and facilities. The Model Processes Subcommittee, on which the intern will serve, is responsible for identifying critical eligibility requirements for service delivery to children and youth who may be at risk of out-of-state residential placement. These children and youth often have complex or difficult service needs that require cross-systems supports, either at the community or residential level. Many of these children are also eligible for Medicaid funding. The Department of Health is also a member agency of the Out-of-State Placement Committee.

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND GOALS:

On August 2, 2005, Governor Pataki signed Chapter 392 of the Laws of 2005, enacting the Out-of-State Placement (OSP) Committee. The Law improves the monitoring of out-of-state residential placements, promotes coordination across all levels of government and establishes a process for identifying and considering in-state resources prior to making an out-of-state placement. This legislation is a direct outcome of the Report of the Interagency Work Group on Out-of-State Residential Placements (June 2005) and became effective October 31, 2005.

The legislation requires the following:

- Establishing an Out-of-State Placement Committee within the Council on Children and Families composed of the Commissioners of the State Education Department (SED), Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS), Office of Mental Health (OMH), Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (OMRDD), Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS), Division of Probation and Correctional Alternatives (DPCA), and Department of Health (DOH);
- Creating individual agency registries of out-of-state residential schools and facilities and a comprehensive registry to be housed at the Council on Children and Families;
- Developing contract parameters to be used by local education agencies and local departments of social services for placement of children in out-of-state residential schools and facilities;
- Developing model processes for placement of children who may be at risk of out-of-state residential services;

- Providing ongoing and future technical assistance and public awareness resources;
- Studying integrated funding options specific to children at risk of out-of-state residential placements;
- Recommending additional steps to strengthen the infrastructure of children and youth residential placements and community services in New York State; and
- Submitting an annual report to the Governor and Legislature.

The Out-of-State Placement Committee has been organized into six subcommittees – Registries, Contract Parameters, Model Processes, Integrated Funding, Infrastructure and Technical Assistance/Public Awareness – to achieve these results. This work is coordinated by an OSP Work Group, led by the Council on Children and Families. In addition to the agencies identified above, the Division of the Budget, Commission on the Quality of Care and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities, the statewide director of the Coordinated Children’s Services Initiative, and two family liaisons serve on the OSP Work Group.

The Model Processes Subcommittee is responsible for the development of model processes for placement of children who may be at risk of out-of-state residential services. In order to complete this task, however, the subcommittee is required to collect and organize county and state-level information on the various eligibility requirements for each relevant system and provide some comparative analysis of this information that the subcommittee can use in making state-level recommendations.

STUDENT’S ROLE IN THE PROJECT:

The Intern is responsible for working with members of the Model Processes committee to organize the eligibility requirement information across systems and present in a manageable format as determined by the committee. Included in this information should be information on any relevant Medicaid funding requirements that could affect the children and youth served. The specific duties of the student are as follows:

1. Attend joint Model Processes-Infrastructure Subcommittee meetings, to understand the mission of the subcommittee and gather information shared at these meetings, relevant to the task.
2. Collect and organize eligibility information across county and state levels;
3. Develop a compendium or matrix of the eligibility requirements that could be used by the Model Processes subcommittee in developing its recommendations.
4. Assist in the analysis of this information, relevant to the development of recommendations.

PROJECT DURATION AND SCHEDULING CONSIDERATION:

This project is expected to last 3 months, aligning with the Fall 2006 graduate semester. Joint infrastructure and model process subcommittee meetings are held every 2 weeks on Fridays, and the intern is expected to attend these meetings. Additionally, OSP Work

Group meetings will be held September 14, November 9 and December 14, 2006, and the intern would benefit from attending these meetings to gain a broad perspective on the project.

The Council on Children and Families will work with the graduate intern to develop a work schedule that facilitates both class schedule and project needs.

EXPECTED PROJECT OUTCOMES AND STUDENT DELIVERABLES:

There is one key deliverable expected: a draft compendium or matrix of county and state level eligibility requirements across service systems. There may be a requirement of supporting cover memoranda or e-mails relative to this compendium.

Outcomes will include a set of recommendations informed by this matrix and any additional analysis by the intern.

COLLEGE COURSE OR OTHER PRE-REQUISITES:

- 1) Strong organizational and analytical skills
- 2) Ability to work with Word or Excel, to organize information
- 3) Strong writing and communication skills
- 4) Any coursework in public administration would be helpful.

ALTERNATE FUNDING POSSIBILITIES:

The Out-of-State Placement Committee is a recently mandated initiative of which the Department of Health is a mandated participant, so there has not been alternate funding options explored at this time. As subcommittees meet their mandates, grant or budget items will be explored.