

The State of New York

Coordinated Children's Services Initiative

Leveraging Resources to Improve School and Community Outcomes for Children with Emotional/Behavioral Disorders

July, 2003 - Respite Services

Across New York State and the country, schools and communities are working together in an effort to improve school and community outcomes for children with emotional/behavioral disorders. To assist communities in addressing the needs of these children and their families, Governor Pataki signed into law the Coordinated Children's Services Initiative as Chapter 247 of the Laws of 2002. While participation is not required, CCSI provides that counties and NY City and the education system with an interagency structure to address the significant needs of children with emotional/behavioral disorders. A key component of the law is Section 5. This section provides counties and schools with the ability to blend resources and to use those resources flexibly to meet the needs of the targeted children and their families through innovative services. This is the first in a series of guidance that CCSI will provide to assist counties and schools in addressing the needs of children with emotional/behavioral disorders and their families.

Leadership among counties, schools, parents and communities has indicated that access to Respite Services is a critical need in providing assistance to children and families. Definitions may include a break for parents or relief from stress for both parents and children. Services may include an overnight or weekend bed, two hours of in-or out-of-home recreational activity, planned and goal driven social activities, mentoring, skill building and group care during parent group meetings. Referrals for respite are from schools, OMH Single Points of Access (SPOAs), parents and other entities in the community. Funding is from OMH Reinvestment, Family Support, waiver, intensive case management, TANF, Preventive Services dollars, various grants and county only funds.

Funds usually pass through the county's Mental Health and Social Services agencies. Authorization and payment are made by the county or a voluntary agency. Eligibility requirements often include a mental health diagnosis but healthy siblings are frequently eligible as well. OCFS policies provide for respite in situations including but not limited to children with mental health needs. OCFS also provides for respite for foster parents to prevent higher levels of placement as well as intact families being served in preventive services cases. In no case were we informed of a financial eligibility requirement. Payments are generally made to the provider of the service but in at least one situation weekly payments are made directly to parents who reimburse respite providers. Most counties indicated the need for more respite, related funding and assistance in finding respite providers. Emergency and overnight respite are not available in many locations.

The attached chart summarizes examples of resources that may assist communities in meeting this need. It should be noted that the attached chart is useful for identifying respite resources which may also serve for mentoring and after school care. Please contact Tyler Spangenberg, CCSI State Coordinator, at (518) ~~432-0333~~ if you have suggestions on additional strategies for the funding of respite.

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SOURCES OF RESPITE FUNDING July 2003

Each child serving system has different funding streams that can be used to support children's needs, including through partnership efforts. The following chart presents an overview of resources that are available for **respite services** from which communities and schools can work together to improve outcomes for youth and their families. It should be noted that the attached chart is useful for identifying respite resources which may also serve for mentoring and after school care. Users are encouraged to communicate with State and county contacts for more up-to-date or in-depth information about how to access these funds.

This chart will be updated periodically on the web site of the NYS Council on Children and Families at www.ccf.state.ny.us or by calling the Council at (518) 473-3652.

CREATIVE COUNTY RESPITE PROGRAMS AND CONTACTS

COUNTY	SERVICE DESCRIPTION	Funding Source	LOCAL AGENCY AUTHORIZING SERVICE	Financial Eligibility requirement	Other Requirements	State Contact	County Contact
Rockland	Three times a year a parent can request \$60 to fund respite, after school activity, a weekend outing, a movie, an afternoon of shopping, meal at a restaurant etc. The project has a part time coordinator (4 to 5 hours per week). 35 to 40 at risk children are served by this informal approach.	OMH Reinvestment Funds	County Mental Health	None	Mental Health Diagnosis		County Contact: CCSI Coordinator, Rockland County Mental Health Association, Kathy Farber, (845) 639-7400 ext. 18.
Jefferson	100 hours of respite per year per family that can be used as the family determines. Service provided by a respite worker and can be provided in the home or outside the home.	OMH Reinvestment Funds Family Support Expansion Funds Private Grants-Ronald McDonald	The Center for Independent Living. Parents are reimbursed weekly for hours of respite services provided.	None	Mental Health Diagnosis Grant money provides funds to serve non-disabled siblings in the family		County Contact: Family Support Program Director, Northern Regional Center for Independent Living, Jefferson County, Elizabeth Hatch, (315) 785-8703

COUNTY	SERVICE DESCRIPTION	Funding Source	LOCAL AGENCY AUTHORIZING SERVICE	Financial Eligibility requirement	Other Requirements	State Contact	County Contact
Erie	An average of 10 hours per month of respite is provided in the home or outside the home. The family decides what they need in any given month. Group respite provided during bi-weekly family support group meetings	OMH Reinvestment dollars, County only pool of funds.	County Mental Health Association	None	Mental Health Diagnosis		County Contact: Coordinator for Children and Family Support Programs, County Mental Health Association, Vicki McCarthy (716) 886-1242, ext. 26.
Broome	4 to 6 hours per week per child provided in and outside the home	OMH Reinvestment Funds, grants	Catholic Charities	None	None Required Priority to a child with a mental health diagnosis		County Contact: Catholic Charities, Respite and Mentoring Manager, Gina McGinnis, (607) 771-0923
Oneida	Respite is defined as overnight or weekend placement of the child outside the home, usually administered by local child care provider.	OMH Reinvestment, ICM, OCFS Preventive Services dollars and OMH and OMRDD waiver dollars.	County Mental Health	None	Mental Health Diagnosis		County Contact: Parent Partner, Office of Mental Health, Elaine Angwin (315) 798-5903

COUNTY	SERVICE DESCRIPTION	Funding Source	LOCAL AGENCY AUTHORIZING SERVICE	Financial Eligibility requirement	Other Requirements	State Contact	County Contact
Wayne	Program includes extended overnight home provider (up to 7 nights); overnight weekend; one-to- one community respite, mentoring and various other activities; and , monthly “skill building” group meetings.	OMH Reinvest-ment Funds and county allocation.	Wayne County Action Program	None	Mental Health Diagnosis		County Contact: Program Director, Wayne County Intensive Respite Program, Sharon Clovis, (315) 946-5769
Albany	Program includes crisis respite provided in the home, alternate crisis support in home in evenings, and regular planned respite	OMH Reinvest-ment Funds	Community Maternity	None	Mental Health Diagnosis		County Contact: Director of Community Services, Albany County Department of Mental Health, Susan Naughton (518) 447-4561

Promising Practices For Financing Respite:

COUNTY	FUNDING	FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY	OTHER ELIGIBILITY	COUNTY CONTACT
Westchester	A variety of respite programs through SAMSA Grant and OMH Reinvestment Funds	None	At-risk children	Westchester County CCSI Coordinator, Michael Orth, (914) 995-5225
Cortland	One-to-one children and adolescent respite DCJS 3 year – Byrne Grant	None	At-risk children	Cortland County CCSI Coordinator, Kathy Tripp-Smith (607) 758-6100

RESPITE: STATE CONTACTS

Service Description	Funding Source	Financial Eligibility requirement	Other Requirements	State Contact
Respite can be purchased from these Flexible Funds	OMH Reinvestment Funds	None	Severely Emotionally Disturbed	OMH, Bureau Of Community Care System Management (518) 402-4233 Contact: Sue Batty
Wrap-around services that include respite	OMH Intensive Case Management	None	Severely Emotionally Disturbed, frequent user of mental health services Limited to \$1000/year per eligible child for all wrap-around services.	OMH, NYC Contact: Mitch Dorfman, (212) 330-1669 Upstate Contact: Regional Office or Bureau Of Community Care System Management (518) 402-4233. Contact: Doug Ruderman
Respite is one of the six HCBS services	OMH HCBS Waiver	Medicaid. Parents/guardians resources and income not considered for the child's eligibility	Requiring or at imminent risk of needing the level of care of psychiatric inpatient services to individuals under 21	OMH, Bureau Of Children And Families (518) 474-8394 Contact: Deborah Fryc
Respite - Family Support	OMH Family Support Funds	None	Mental Health Diagnosis	OMH, Bureau Of Children And Families (518) 474-8394 Contact: Diana Marek
Respite – Family Support	OMH Family Support Funds	None	Mental Health Diagnosis	Families Together (518) 432-0333 ext. 20 Laurie Rivera

Service Description	Funding Source	Financial Eligibility requirement	Other Requirements	State Contact
Respite is one of the HCBS services	OMRDD HCBS Waiver Medicaid	Medicaid. Parents/guardians resources and income not considered for the child's eligibility	While, "In danger of institutionalization" is the basic premise behind waiver services, it should not be interpreted that the only time access to OMR waiver is available is when the person would otherwise be institutionalized.	OMRDD, Local DDSO or Central Office Bureau Of Waiver Management (518) 474- 5647 Contact: Kevin O'Dell,
Respite to prevent foster care - Use of flexible funding	TANF	Must meet TANF eligibility for TANF funded services.	In danger of institutional placement	OTDA, Bureau Of Transitional Programs, (518) 474-9282, Contact: Jack Ryan
Respite purchased with CCSI grant funding	State CCSI Grants	None	At-risk children	Families Together, (518) 432 0333 Contact: Tyler Spangenberg,
Respite with flexible dollars	OCFS State/local Preventive Service Dollars, Title XX Below 200%, and Title XX	None for Preventive or XX Services provided regardless of income, but if child's income is below 200% FPL, TANF or Title XX 200% can be used	Planned or emergency respite may be provided to families as a means to prevent out of home placement of the child	OCFS Regional Staff
Respite to foster families to prevent higher levels of care	EAF or Foster Care Block Grant	None	Time limited to support foster parents to continue caring for the child	OCFS Regional Staff

Update 7/01/03

SED - Severely Emotionally Disturbed

TANF - Temporary Assistance to Needy Families

OCFS - NYS Office of Children and Family Services

OMH - NYS Office of Mental Health

OMRDD - NYS Office of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities