



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE
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Dear Colleagues:

Enclosed you will find the draft OMHSAS bulletin on Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) for your review and recommendations. The standards outlined in the bulletin are derived from the National Assertive Community Treatment standards. This initiative is part of OMHSAS' efforts to actively promote the inclusion of more Evidence- Based Practices in our behavioral health service delivery system.

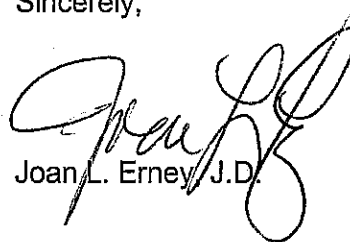
Once published in its final form, this bulletin will stipulate the standards and procedures for developing, administering, and monitoring Assertive Community Treatment programs in the Commonwealth. All programs that identify themselves as Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) or Program(s) for Assertive Community Treatment (PACT) shall be required to adhere to the standards and directions outlined in the bulletin. The publication of this bulletin will not have any immediate effect on the programs that are identified as Community Treatment Teams (CTT). However, OMHSAS intends to revisit the guidelines for the provision of CTT services in the coming future.

Subsequent to the publication of the ACT bulletin, OMHSAS will issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for developing ACT teams in the state. The plan is to develop four such teams in fiscal year 2007/2008. Two of those four teams will be built by phasing out select, existing Community Treatment Teams to form ACT teams that conform to the standards delineated in the bulletin. The remaining two teams will be entirely new ACT entities. Training and technical assistance supported by OMHSAS will assist these teams to conform to the ACT fidelity.

Please provide your comments and feedback on this draft bulletin to Benny Varghese at bvarghese@state.pa.us by June 18, 2007.

We look forward to continuing the development of viable treatment options for individuals with mental illness /co-occurring disorders. Your partnership in this endeavor is critical to this effort. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Joan L. Erney, J.D.

Enclosure