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|  | MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES BULLETIN COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA * DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WELFARE | | |
| | NUMBER: OMHSAS-06-01 | ISSUE DATE: 2-01-06 | EFFECTIVE DATE: Immediately |
| SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding Between The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and The Pennsylvania Department of Aging | | BY:  Deputy Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services | |

SCOPE:

County Mental Health/Mental Retardation Programs/Administrators

PURPOSE:

To ensure that County MH/MR programs and Area Agencies on Aging have a written agreement that addresses the needs of older adults with mental health issues in their locale. This agreement shall address how to best eliminate barriers that impede joint planning and delivery of services at the local level. A guideline for letters of agreement between county mental health programs and Area Agencies on Aging is attached to assist in development of the letter.

BACKGROUND:

The original Interdepartmental Cooperative Agreement between the Office of Mental Health, Department of Public Welfare, and the Pennsylvania Department of Aging was signed on May 21, 1984. The agreement stipulated that local Area Agencies on Aging and county mental health programs develop operational agreements which address the needs of their local situations. The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the PA Department of Aging have recently updated and revised this Memorandum of Understanding. This update continues to require the letter of agreement between County MH/MR programs and the Area Agency on Aging.

This bulletin will obsolete bulletin number 99-85-16.

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| COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS BULLETIN SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO: Bureau of Policy and Program Development Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services P.O. Box 2675 Harrisburg, PA 17105 Telephone (717) 772-7900 |
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POLICY:

The Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services requires that services to older adults with mental health problems be considered a priority in mental health planning, budget, data, program development and training efforts. The Pennsylvania Department of Aging is committed to making their services more accessible to older adults with mental health problems by providing for the special needs of this population in the Department's planning, resource allocation, data, and training efforts.

PROCEDURES:

A copy of the letter of agreement signed by the County Administrator and the AAA Director must be submitted to the Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services at:

P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Attached is an agreement guideline to assist you in developing your local agreement.

Attachment