

We're looking for you!

As you begin the process of making critical budget decisions affecting the stability, permanency, and general well-being of Pennsylvania's most vulnerable children and youth, we need your leadership to help keep them safe from neglect and abuse.

As you work to make the budget numbers balance against competing interests and priorities, we need your leadership to ensure that juvenile offenders are assisted to develop competencies and victim awareness and that they are held accountable for their actions.



I can't do it by myself...

You are an “elected” surrogate parent to the 243,225 children and youth who received supportive child welfare services in their own homes last year, and...

You are an “elected” surrogate parent to the 29,189 children in foster care and community-based programs as well as the thousands of children and youth in institutional residential care. There are also 1,657 youth being cared for in state-operated facilities who need your attention, support, and guidance.

The needs of at-risk children and families continue to increase in complexity and scope, while the costs of providing stable and supportive care and treatment, both in their own homes and in residential care, also continue to escalate. Adequate financial support must be appropriated for:

- Counties charged with primary responsibility for ensuring child safety for dependent children, and community safety in working with delinquent youth; and
- Private agencies to sufficiently fund actual costs of programs and services purchased by counties.

What does PCCYFS need you to do?

- Listen to your county public officials and then advocate with your leadership to insist on adequate funding for the child welfare and juvenile justice appropriations in the state budget. **Ask the critical question:** Are there any unfunded mandates being passed onto the counties, which in turn, are imposed upon private providers?
- Ensure that legislative intent is realized in contracting practices between counties and providers. **Ask the critical question:** Has this 2% “cost-of-doing-business” (COLA) increase actually reached the private agencies who deliver the services to children and families?
- Examine proposed regulations and legislation with a focus on the true fiscal impacts on services. **Ask the critical questions:** Do these additional requirements serve a real value? Will they produce improved outcomes for our children? Are the additional projected costs accurate and funded?

We need YOU to take an interest in our children's safety, and champion their cause during the budget process!



Bernadette M. Bianchi
Executive Director

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PCCYFS is a united voice on behalf of

children, youth, and families. We are a membership organization of over 125 Pennsylvania private provider agencies that works to improve the quality of life for our children, youth, and families who are at risk, by supporting and promoting an accessible service delivery system within our communities. We are invested in working to make a difference in the lives of the individuals we serve.

In your role as a member of the legislature, you have a unique opportunity to make a difference for those in your district. Turn the passion that resulted in your election into compassion for those most in need of public support. We would appreciate your influence as well as your vote to help us to protect Pennsylvania's most valuable resources – our children.

*For the kids -
Bernadette*

Figures found in this document were taken from the 2006-07 Governor's Executive Budget

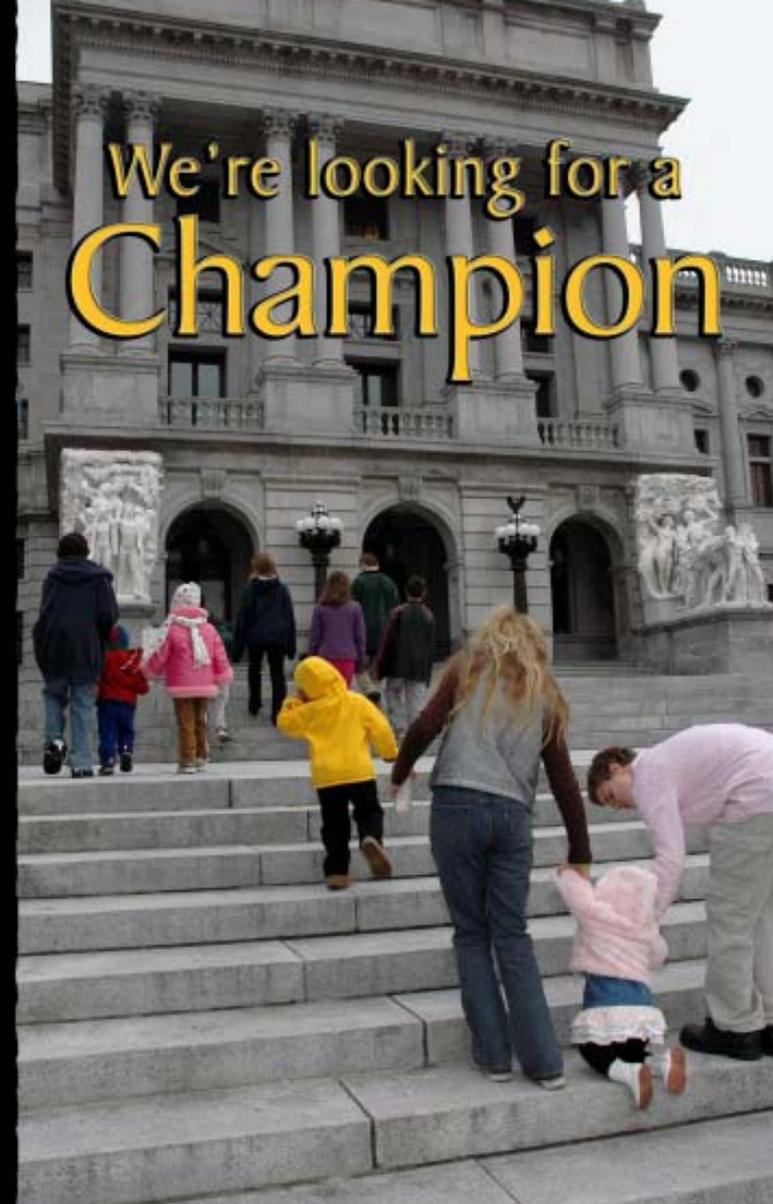
New Department of Public Welfare (DPW) initiatives add stress on a fragile child welfare system. Efforts to “maximize federal dollars” for child welfare services actually increased costs to private providers. DPW’s initiative to transfer funding from child welfare to Medical Assistance (MA) has been challenging, while federal participation in both areas continue to decline. **Please ask the critical questions:**

- Has it become harder for children and youth to access needed services?
- Are children and families waiting longer for services?
- Are the gaps in services created by funding shifts being identified and fixed?
- Has MA Realignment made the projected state MA deficit even bigger?
- What services will be lost for the children and families in my district?



Take steps to lead us in the right direction!

A message from more than 125 member agencies of the Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services



We're looking for a
Champion