

# Because Minds Matter: Collaborating to Strengthen Management of Psychotropic Medications for Children and Youth in Foster Care

## WHEN:

August 27-28, 2012

## WHERE:

Grand Hyatt Washington  
1000 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

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## SPONSORED BY:

Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

## PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

Creating and implementing integrated oversight and monitoring protocols that ensure the appropriate use of psychotropic medications for children in foster care require thoughtful collaboration across complex systems. The Administration on Children and Families (ACF), in collaboration with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), is convening this two-day meeting to bring together representatives from State child welfare, Medicaid, and mental health systems from all fifty States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to work together to strengthen oversight and monitoring of psychotropic medications for children in foster care. The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Provide an opportunity for State leaders to enhance existing cross-system efforts to ensure appropriate use of psychotropic medications;
- Showcase collaborative projects and initiatives at State- and local-levels;
- Offer state-of-the art information on cross-system approaches to improving mental health and well-being for children and their families;
- Encourage participants to think in a deep and nuanced way about strategies for addressing the mental health and trauma-related needs of children in foster care with evidence-based and evidence-informed interventions; and
- Facilitate each State's development of action steps to improve upon and implement their existing oversight plans

## BACKGROUND

Children in foster care often have significant emotional and behavioral challenges as a result of maltreatment and trauma, and a high proportion receive psychotropic medications to manage their symptoms. The use of these medications with this vulnerable population must be managed with care. New provisions in the Child and Family Services Improvement and Innovation Act of 2011 (P.L. 112-34) require State IV-B agencies, as part of their Health Care Coordination and Oversight Plan, to develop a plan for the oversight of prescription medicines that include protocols for the appropriate use and monitoring of psychotropic medications. States, territories and Tribes (referred to as States) are required to submit these plans by June 30, 2012 as part of the Annual Progress and Services Report (APSR). In an effort to support States in developing, strengthening, and implementing their oversight plans, ACF is offering a comprehensive range of information and technical assistance culminating with this summit.

## WHO IS INVITED TO ATTEND

Attendance at this meeting will be by invitation only. State leaders with direct responsibility for child welfare, Medicaid, and mental health will convene as teams and work together to develop action steps for enhancing oversight and monitoring of psychotropic medications for children in foster care. As members of State teams, participants will have the opportunity to share ideas, learn from experts, and work through obstacles together to improve increase collaborative supports for children and youth. This will be a working meeting, so attendance is strictly limited to invited members of State teams.