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Program for the Deaf chosen for statewide behavioral health system

The Walden School Wraparound Program was selected to be a Specialized Community Services Agency

Framingham, MA - The Walden School Wraparound program at The Learning Center for the Deaf is proud to announce that it is one of 3 agencies in the Commonwealth selected to be a Specialized CSA (Community Services Agency) for the upcoming Child Behavioral Health Initiative.

The Child Behavioral Health Initiative is a major reorganization of how behavioral health services are delivered to families with young people who are facing severe emotional challenges. The program is for individuals covered by Mass Health and will kick off on July 1, 2009. Although additional clinical services will be rolled out later this year, the two core services, Intensive Care Coordination (ICC) and Caregiver Peer-to-Peer Support, will begin on July 1.

After a competitive bidding process, 21 agencies were selected to provide the core services in 29 locations across the state and the Walden School Wraparound program was one of just three additional programs chosen to work with populations requiring specialized cultural and linguistic access. The awards were announced on March 6, 2009.

The Walden School Wraparound program has been working under a contract with the Department of Children & Families in their Family Networks program since 2006 providing similar services to families with protective issues. The staff consists of a Masters' level mental health professional and a Family Partner with years of experience working in the Deaf Community. They will continue to work in the new program and will help to train and orient new staff as the program grows.

The Learning Center for the Deaf has supported the growth of this community-based service since the filing of the RosieD v Romney lawsuit in 2002 made it clear that an overhaul of child mental health services was in the future and would make a significant difference to families with a deaf or hard of hearing family member.



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Judy Vreeland, Associate Executive Director of The Learning Center for the Deaf, and a force behind the development of the Wraparound program says of this award;

“I am happy and proud that we were selected by the state as a CSA because it indicates a high level recognition of our work. But also, it signifies state level recognition of the Deaf Community *as a cultural and linguistic minority*. This specialty category was identified as being for programs that serve cultural minorities, and there were 3 programs selected. This isn't about serving a "disability group; it's about serving a "cultural minority. We've come a long way.”

For more information about the transformation of the Commonwealth's service delivery system for youth, see the CBHI website at

<http://www.masspartnership.com/provider/index.aspx?lnkID=CBHI.ascx>.

For further information about the Walden School Wraparound program at The Learning Center for the Deaf, you may contact Judy Vreeland at judy_vreeland@tlcdeaf.org or Program Manager, Carla Fink, LICSW at Carla_fink@tlcdeaf.org.

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