

PRIORITIES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES
2004 - 2005
From Broome County's 2004 – 2006 Local Government Plan for Mental
Retardation and Developmental Disabilities (MRDD) Services

RESIDENTIAL SERVICES PRIORITIES

For 2004 -2005 plan year

1. Description of Priority/Initiative:

The Handicapped Children's Association, Inc., of the Southern Tier (HCA) proposed to open a 4-bed residence for children on Sky Island Drive in Endicott.

This initiative was initially proposed during the 2003 – 2004 plan year but was carried over into the current plan year because the home was not opened before March 31, 2004.

The initiative has been accomplished in the 2004-2005 plan year. The home was opened on April 17, 2004 and 4 children from the NYS-CARES Wait List moved into the house.

2. Description of Priority/Initiative:

The Handicapped Children's Association, Inc., of the Southern Tier (HCA) proposed to develop a new 6-bed residence for children during the 2004-2005 plan year. The six individuals are currently on the NYS-CARES Wait List

This initiative is in progress. The HCA is conducting a site search for property in the Windsor area to develop a home for young adult men.

3. Description of Priority/Initiative:
(Residential Services Priority Addendum to the 2004-2005 plan)

Catholic Charities submitted a letter of intent to develop a 5-bed residence for young adult women.

This initiative is in progress. Catholic Charities is presenting conducting a site search.

For development in 2005 – 2006 plan year (from the 2004 – 2006 plan)

1. Description of Priority/Initiative:

The Broome Developmental Disabilities Services Office (DDSO) proposes to relocate the 12 adults currently residing at the Farm-to-Market Road residence and create two new 6-bed residences for them to move into. The 12-bed Farm-to-Market Road residence would then be utilized to transfer 12 children from the Broome Developmental Center into a community residence setting.

This initiative is in progress. The DDSO has received approval to proceed with this initiative. A search is underway for sites to develop two 6-bed residences for the 12 individuals presently living at Farm-to-Market Road. The existing Farm-to-Market home will then be utilized as a 12-bed residence for children currently residing at the developmental center.

DAY SERVICES PRIORITIES

No priorities/initiatives for day services for children were included in the 2004 – 2006 MRDD plan. (Only 2 were submitted in total)

FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT SERVICES PRIORITIES

1. Description of Priority/Initiative:

The Handicapped Children's Association, Inc. of the Southern Tier proposed to develop a 6-8 bed free standing respite service for children and adults with MRDD during the 2004-2005 plan year. It was anticipated that 40 individuals would participate in the Free Standing Respite Program during the first year.

This initiative is in progress. The Handicapped Children's Association, Inc. of the Southern Tier (HCA) has purchased a property on Front Street in Binghamton and renovations are underway. This program will be available to both children and adults during the week and on weekends. The projected opening date for this service will be summer 2005.

Children's Services Needs Identified at the MRDD Forum on March 29, 2004

The following lists some of the needs and issues pertaining to MRDD services for children in Broome County that were identified at the Community Forum on March 29, 2004. The list has been separated into three different categories to correspond with the three major focus areas contained in the Local Government Plan for MRDD Services (Residential Services, Day Services, and Family and Individual Support Services).

ISSUES IDENTIFIED UNDER RESIDENTIAL SERVICES

- It is difficult to obtain placement for developmentally disabled children in a timely manner. In times of crisis this leaves families with few, if any, options.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED UNDER DAY SERVICES

- There continues to be a need for more after-school programming for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities.
- There is a need for day services for children and adolescents during school holidays and vacations.
- There is also a need for services during non-traditional hours (after 5:00 PM and on weekends).
- There is a need for more summer camp programs for children and adolescents with developmental disabilities.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED UNDER FAMILY AND INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT SERVICES

- There are not enough respite services available for children with developmental disabilities.
- Many children with developmental disabilities are not eligible for respite services because they are in foster care, residential schools or in Division for Youth facilities.
- Even when individuals are found to be eligible for respite services and funding is available, respite services are difficult to obtain. Families and providers expressed frustration regarding the difficulty they have experienced finding individuals who are willing to provide this service.
- Parents and advocates report that there are few medical specialists and dentists who will treat individuals with developmental disabilities, largely due to the insufficient Medicaid rate of reimbursement.
- There continues to be a critical need for psychiatric and psychological services for individuals with developmental disabilities, especially children. Pediatric evaluations, assessments, crisis intervention and ongoing treatment, especially in reference to behavioral issues, were among the service needs identified. Our community needs more specialists with MRDD expertise to provide ongoing mental health services to individuals with developmental disabilities.
- Transportation continues to be an issue. This is particularly apparent in relation to getting children and adolescents to after-school programs. Presently in Broome County, while after-school programming continues to be identified as a need, school districts will not transport children from their school program to an after-school program that is out of the district.