

Martin O'Malley
Governor

Anthony Brown
Lt. Governor

Theodore Dallas
Secretary

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 12, 2012

TO: Directors, Local Departments of Social Services
Assistant Directors, Local Departments of Social Services
Out of Home Placement Supervisors

FROM: Carnitra White, Executive Director
Social Services Administration

Re: A Guide for Public Child Serving Agencies on Psychotropic Medications for
Children and Adolescents

The overuse of psychotropic medications among children and adolescents in the child welfare system has become a high priority. In 2011, the federal government mandated states to develop and implement policy and protocols for monitoring the usage of psychotropic medication among children in state custody. As Social Services Administration moves forward with developing its policies and protocols regarding monitoring and oversight of psychotropic medication, we also want to ensure that workers are provided with up-to-date information pertaining to psychotropic medication and its role in a youth's overall treatment plan.

The American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry has developed a 2012 Guide for Public Child Serving Agencies on Psychotropic Medications for Children and Adolescents. The guide can be down loaded at the following link: www.aacap.org. This document provides information to service providers in community based systems of care, and families, regarding the role of psychotropic medications in a youth's treatment plan. The guide also serves as an excellent tool to assist workers on how to observe youth that are prescribed psychotropic medications as well as how to best collaborate with psychotropic medication prescribers before, during, and after a course of treatment. Please share the above link with your child welfare workers.

If there are any questions, please feel free to contact Jacqueline Powell, Education/Health Specialist at (410) 767-6948 or jpowell@dhr.state.md.us.

Attachment

Cc: Debbie Ramelmeier
Anita T. Wilkins
Jacqueline Powell