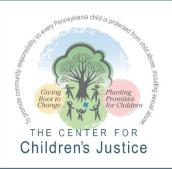
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Children's Justice & Advocacy Report

To promote community responsibility so every Pennsylvania child is protected from child abuse, including sexual abuse.

Auditor General DePasquale Puts Children and Youth Agencies 'On notice'

Audit flags lack of "supporting documentation" for nearly \$17 million of in-home services and "questionable billing practices"

October 26th – Today Pennsylvania Auditor General Eugene DePasquale released a traditionally routine audit about child welfare expenditures stipulating, "I'm putting all children and youth agencies on notice: During our audits, we will look at whether you are monitoring to ensure that children and their families are indeed receiving the in-home services you are paying for."

He continued, "Simply accepting a submitted invoice and paying for it is not doing enough to ensure these children receive the help they so desperately need." 1

Audits of children and youth agencies are a legal requirement of Pennsylvania's Office of Auditor General.

Act 148 of 1976 set forth a requirement that the state's auditor "shall ascertain the actual expense," as well as the "actual average daily cost" and "certify" state dollars incurred by a county children and youth agency "on behalf of

its children."² Regulations further require that the county retain information about its expenditures until audited by the Auditor General "or for at least 5 years."³

These long required audits and the role for the Auditor General have largely been non-events. Definitely not the stuff of media headlines.

That may well be changing.

DePasquale thanked Erie County Controller, Mary Schaaf⁴, for raising a red flag about the billing practices of a provider billing for services related to the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program.

The audit released Wednesday included 4 Findings:

 "Erie County Office of Children and Youth failed to provide supporting documentation evidencing that in-home purchased services paid for were actually provided" by the contracted provider;

http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/billinfo/billinfo.cfm?syear=1975&sind=0&body=S&type=B&bn=852

¹ http://www.paauditor.gov/press-releases/auditor-general-depasquale-says-erie-county-children-youth-agency-paid-nearly-17-million-to-providers-without-verifying-services

³ § 3140.48. Audits retrieved at http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/055/chapter3140/chap3140toc.html#3140.31.

⁴ http://www.eriecountypa.gov/county-services/county-offices/county-controller.aspx

- 2. "Questionable billing practices by a provider of in-home preventative services" and the county agency's "failure to provide evidence to substantiate the provision of services and the corresponding fees changed;"
- 3. The county agency reimbursed an inhome preventative service provider "participating in the Family Group Decision Making program for actual personnel and other operating costs in

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