



For Immediate Release  
March 19, 2014

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### State Holds Listening Session on Children's Mental Health Issues *First of Five Open Public Forums Will Be Held March 26<sup>th</sup>*

Hartford – The Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) is seeking input on children's mental health issues from parents, mental health experts and community members at an open forum on March 26<sup>th</sup> in Hartford. Four additional open forums will be held across the state between April and June 2014. Exact dates and locations will be announced shortly. Feedback from these forums, along with input from written comments and other meetings, will be considered in the development of a plan to improve children's mental health services and systems across the state.

At the end of the 2013 legislative session, the General Assembly passed Public Act 13-178, "An Act Concerning the Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Health of Youths," calling for DCF to produce a statewide children's behavioral health plan. DCF has contracted with the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) to help develop this plan. The completed plan will guide the State's efforts to build a comprehensive and integrated behavioral health system that benefits all of Connecticut's children. For more information, please visit [www.plan4children.org](http://www.plan4children.org).

**WHAT:** **Open Public Forum** to guide the development of a statewide behavioral health plan  
*(as mandated by P.A. 13-178)*

**WHEN:** Wednesday, March 26 from 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Doors open at 5:30 PM.

**WHERE:** Institute of Living, Commons Building - Conference Room  
**200 Retreat Avenue, Hartford, CT 06114**

**WHO:** Open to members of the public and media. **Spots are limited** and members of the public must **pre-register**. Register at <https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/Registration/events.asp?FormId=34>.

**FORMAT:** To ensure that as many people as possible can participate, individuals who pre-register will be given an opportunity to speak for up to three minutes per person.

**MEDIA** Media interested in attending should contact:

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