



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
May 7, 2014

**** PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE FOR MAY 29 FORUM****

State Invites Public Comment on Children's Mental Health Issues *Open Public Forums Will Be Held in May and June*

Hartford – As part of an effort to improve children's mental health services and systems, six open public forums are being held across Connecticut. The first open forum was held in March in Hartford and the remaining five open public forums will be held in May and June. The forums are designed as listening sessions. Feedback from the forums, along with input from written comments and other meetings, will be considered in the development of a statewide children's behavioral health plan.

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 comprehensive children's behavioral health plan. DCF has contracted with the Child Health and Development Institute (CHDI) to help gather input and develop this plan. For more information, please visit www.plan4children.org.

UPDATED SCHEDULE

All open public forums are scheduled for 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm).

Thursday, May 8 – Waterbury, CT
Rotella Interdistrict Magnet School
380 Pierpont Road

Tuesday, May 20 – New London, CT
Connecticut College, 270 Mohegan Avenue

Wednesday, May 28 – New Britain, CT
New Britain High School, 110 Mill Street

Thursday, May 29 – West Haven, CT
The University of New Haven
Dobbs Hall, Buknall Theater
300 Post Road

Tuesday, June 3 - Stamford, CT
Academy of Information Technology & Engineering, 411 High Ridge Road

Members of the public must register at <https://www.ctclearinghouse.org/Registration/events.asp?FormId=34>.
Spanish and American Sign Language translation services will be available.

Media interested in attending should contact:

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A mult box will be available.