



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:

1. "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;

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>

²

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

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 in-home preventative service provider “participating in the Family Group Decision Making program for actual personnel and other operating costs in

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