

**2906 – CBAY – Community Based Alternatives for Youth Program****POLICY STATEMENT**

In December of 2006 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) awarded ten States grants to develop care delivery systems to help move children with mental illness from institutional settings to community-based treatment. Georgia was one of the ten States to receive the Demonstration Grant. States were required to establish a 1915(c) Home and Community Based Waiver (HCBW) to cover children under 21 in the demonstration project who are not otherwise eligible for Medicaid. Georgia’s HCBW was approved in September 2008 and is called the Community Based Alternatives for Youth Program (CBAY). This is a five-year Demonstration Project with the possibility of becoming a Home and Community Based Waiver at the end of the fifth year, September 2012.

**BASIC  
CONSIDERATIONS**

The Department of Community Health, Division of Medicaid is responsible for the administration of the program and Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) is responsible for the operational side of the program and the demonstration grant.

To be eligible under CBAY, the child or youth must be between the age of 6 and 21. The child/youth must be approved by the DBHDD External Review Organization (ERO) Clinical Team as meeting the DBHDD psychiatric residential treatment facility (PRTF) level of care criteria. The child/youth may be residing in a PRTF or in the community.

The CBAY Waiver basically operates just like the NOW/COMP. If the individual is not already Medicaid eligible, an application must be made. Currently applications are being processed at the DFCS state office.

If you have a child/youth that you think would meet the CBAY Waiver criteria please have them call 404-657-2103 or email questions to [CBAYQuestions@dhr.state.ga.us](mailto:CBAYQuestions@dhr.state.ga.us).