

## Data Trends

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**From:** Data Trends  
**Sent:** Monday, May 22, 2000 5:15 PM  
**To:** Data Trends  
**Subject:** Data Trends> News 005

Data Trends are produced by the Research and Training Center for Children's Mental Health, Louis de la Parte Florida Mental Health Institute, University of South Florida, Tampa. Data Trends are funded by the Center for Mental Health Services, SAMHSA, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. There are two Data Trends products: 1) Summaries, which detail recent, published articles on systems of care for children with emotional and behavioral disabilities and their families, and; 2) News briefs, which highlight related items or events of interest to the field.

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On May 11, two Medicaid managed care companies in Connecticut agreed to pay \$4 million in a settlement suit over charges that they denied authorization to provide mental health services to what is estimated to be "hundreds" of children. The lawsuit was brought against HealthRight, Inc., and Value Behavioral, by State Attorney General Richard Blumenthal's office after a three-year investigation.

"In the wake of a statewide mental healthcare crunch," and following announcement of the \$4 million settlement, Commissioner Raymond Gorman of the State Office of Health Care Access (OHCA) urged hospitals, acute care hospitals, clinics, and agencies, to postpone planned cutbacks in mental health services until January, 2001. The state cannot order a ban, but hospitals or agencies that want to reduce clinical care services must first receive regulatory approval. Gorman states that he "will not approve any such reduction if patient care is compromised."

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For more information about the Data Trends Project or about the Center, visit our website at <http://rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu> or contact:

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