

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

April 24, 2012

What's Inside:

Children's Mental
Health Week

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: REGIONAL EXECUTIVE STAFF, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND
CHILDREN'S DIVISION STAFF

FROM: CANDACE A. SHIVELY, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: MAY 6 – 12 IS CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

DISCUSSION:

During the week of May 6 - 12, a variety of activities at state and local levels will be occurring to show support for Children's Mental Health Week. Children's Division staff are encouraged to become involved in showing support by either participating in local activities or visiting the various website resources about Children's Mental Health Week.

This week is dedicated to increasing public awareness about the triumphs and challenges in children's mental health and emphasizing the importance of family and youth involvement in the children's mental health movement.

- Mental health is essential to overall health and well being.
- Serious emotional and mental health disorders in children and youth are real and treatable.
- Children and youth with mental health challenges and their families deserve access to services and supports that are family driven, youth guided and culturally appropriate.
- Values of acceptance, dignity and social inclusion should be promoted throughout all communities for children, youth and families.
- Family and youth voice is a valued asset in determining appropriate services and interventions.

Wednesday, May 9th is Children's Mental Health Awareness Day. On that day, all CD staff are encouraged to wear green to show support for Children's Mental Health.



It is important to remember that the experience of being placed in Foster Care can expose youth to additional mental health challenges and trauma. In any given year, approximately one million children come to the attention of the US child welfare system.

Many are victims of abuse or neglect, live with caregivers who are impaired, and/or deal with school and community violence as a fact of life. Identifying these traumas and providing early intervention are crucial to assisting children traumatized by maltreatment and other stressors.

The [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#) (NCTSN) has developed tools and materials for building skills and increasing knowledge about childhood trauma to help child welfare administrators, caseworkers, frontline staff, other mental health personnel, and caregivers understand and respond to the needs of traumatized children.

A variety of resources about Children’s Mental Health and the activities planned to show support are available. Take the time to view the following attachments and links to learn more about Children’s Mental Health and/or to plan local activities to show support. All Children’s Division supported activities should be approved through local supervisory channels.

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Attachments

NECESSARY ACTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division staff. 2. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to: 	
PDS CONTACT PDS Name: Randal D. Yancey PDS Number: 573-751-4344 PDS E-mail: Randal.D.Yancey@dss.mo.gov	PROGRAM MANAGER Program Manager’s Name: Wade McDonald Program Manager’s Clerical Number: 573-751-2502 Program Manager’s E-mail: Wade.S.McDonald@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS	
N/A	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS	
N/A	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES	
 	
www.mosystemofcare.com ,	
Mark Your Calendar Children’s Mental Hea	
State Agency Toolkit	
RELATED STATUTE	
N/A	

ADMINISTRATIVE RULE N/A
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS N/A
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) N/A
FACES REQUIREMENTS N/A