

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

March 25, 2014

MEMORANDUM

What's Inside:

Healthcare for
Foster Youth

TO: SUPERVISORS, CIRCUIT MANAGERS, AND REGIONAL MANAGERS

FROM: TIM DECKER, DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: HEALTHCARE FOR FOSTER YOUTH

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to:

- Reinforce policy and practice requirements for obtaining initial and ongoing health examinations for all children in alternative care
- Introduce results from a recent healthcare review
- Inform staff of a FACES requirement for documenting medical information
- Review health education for youth requirement, and
- Advise authorized use of the Cyber Access system has expanded to select staff.

Initial and Ongoing Health Examinations

Within 24 hours of placement in CD custody, the child should have an **initial health examination** to assess the need for immediate medical or mental health care and to be evaluated for infectious and communicable diseases. If a medical provider is not readily accessible, the initial health screening must occur no later than 72 hours from initial placement.

Within 30 days of placement in CD custody, the child must undergo a **full Healthy Children and Youth (HCY) screening**. The comprehensive HCY screening includes a full medical examination, as well as screenings for vision, hearing, dental, development, mental health, and alcohol/drugs.

- If the medical provider indicates a full HCY screening is not medically necessary because the child has already received an HCY screening within their age-based periodicity schedule, the Children's Service Worker or resource provider should request an interperiodic, or partial, screen.

- If the required elements of a **full HCY screening** are met during the **initial health examination**, both examination requirements have been satisfied and there is no need for a secondary screening within 30 days of custody.

Documentation of the HCY screening using either the age-appropriate [HCY screening guide form](#) or the medical professional's electronic equivalency should be retained in the Child Section of the case file. A Cyber Access report does not include specific health care information and, therefore, **does not** provide sufficient documentation of required HCY screenings.

Children in CD custody under age 10 must receive ongoing physical, developmental, and mental health screenings every six months.

Children in CD custody age 10 years and older should have continued follow up care for any service or treatment needs identified in the initial HCY screening.

Healthcare Review Results

A review of case files was conducted for 1,575 children who entered foster care in February, March, and April of 2013 to determine if the 72-hour initial screening and 30-day comprehensive assessment were completed.

Of the 1,575 reviews conducted:

- 51% had a 72-hour initial screening
- 72% had a 30-day comprehensive assessment completed
- 5% had a screening prior to custody or more than 30 days after entering care
- 48 of the reviews did not require a screening because the child was in care less than 30 days
- 45% of the children who did not have the 30-day assessment were placed with relatives/kin, 30% were placed in a foster home, 11% were in residential, and 7% were in a medical or mental health placement.

It is the Children's Service Worker's responsibility to ensure children in CD custody receive appropriate and timely screenings, assessments, and follow-up services as needed. Staff should emphasize to all foster, relative, and kinship resource providers the importance of obtaining these required screenings for the children in their care.

FACES Requirement for Documenting Medical Information

Effective immediately, staff must enter the date of the child's **full HCY screening** and **last physical exam** in the appropriate fields on the FACES Medical Information screen, under the Medical Examination History section.

- The date of the initial health exam should be entered in the field labeled *Initial Exam*.
- The full HCY screening date should be entered in the field labeled *30 Day HCY Exam*.

- Subsequent HCY exams should be entered in the field labeled *Annual HCY Exam*.
- All other physical exams should be entered in the field labeled *Last Physical Exam Date*.

The LS-1 report shows which children have missing information in these fields. Supervisory staff and Quality Assurance and Quality Improvement (QA/QI) Specialists should help ensure these exams are completed and documented in FACES as required.

Health Education

The Children's Service Worker shall ensure children have access to sexual health education including information on sexually transmitted diseases and birth control appropriate to their individual age, and physical and emotional maturity. When making decisions on these issues, the Division shall consider the religious and cultural beliefs/traditions of the child and the child's family. The Children's Service Worker should make extensive efforts to involve the physician in sexual health decisions and encourage the child to discuss these matters with his/her parent(s) when circumstances allow. All efforts to comply with this policy must be clearly documented in the record.

Cyber Access

Cyber Access is an electronic health record system for MO HealthNet participants. Effective immediately, all Alternative Care (AC) staff, AC supervisors, specialists, and Circuit Managers are authorized to utilize Cyber Access. Staff will no longer need to request healthcare information from the QA or QI Specialist. Staff should obtain a child's electronic health history through Cyber Access, if available, upon initial entry into out-of-home care and annually thereafter. Staff may only access records for children in CD legal custody. Additional instruction regarding specific steps to access the system is forthcoming.

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: Lori Masek (573) 751-4344 Lori.L.Masek@dss.mo.gov	UNIT MANAGER: Christy Collins (573) 751-9603 Christy.Collins@dss.mo.gov
CHILD WELFARE MANUAL REVISIONS: N/A	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS HCY Screening Guide Form	

<p>REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES N/A</p>
<p>RELATED STATUTE N/A</p>
<p>ADMINISTRATIVE RULE N/A</p>
<p>COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS PA-FC 2.04 PA-KC 2.04 PA-FC 10.03; 10.04 PA-KC 10.03; 10.04</p>
<p>CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) Item 22: Physical and Dental Health Needs Met</p>
<p>PROTECTIVE FACTORS Parental Resilience Social Connections Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development Concrete Support in Times of Need Social and Emotional Competence of Children</p>
<p>FACES REQUIREMENTS As noted in the memorandum.</p>