

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

CHILDREN'S DIVISION

P. O. BOX 88

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI

April 12, 2013

What's Inside:
HOME VISITATION
PROGRAM

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: ALL REGIONAL AND COUNTY CHILDREN'S DIVISION AND
FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISION STAFF

FROM: CANDACE A. SHIVELY, DIRECTOR
CHILDREN'S DIVISION
ALYSON CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR
FAMILY SUPPORT DIVISION

SUBJECT: HOME VISITATION PROGRAM

DISCUSSION:

The purpose of this memorandum is to inform staff of the Home Visitation program. The Home Visitation program seeks to improve parenting practices through home visitation and other supports for parents. Research on brain development shows that the care a child receives during the first five years of life, with birth to three years of age being the most critical, impacts a child's potential for future learning and healthy development. Therefore, the Children's Division has established goals to:

- Support and encourage care that promotes positive brain development of children.
- Provide services that lead children to school readiness.
- Ensure low-income children and children with special needs have equal access to care that promotes positive brain development of these children and school readiness.
- Reduce incidences of child abuse/neglect.

TARGET POPULATION

This program targets families that have a child less than three (3) years of age in the home and a household income under 185% of poverty. Additionally, the parent must meet any one of the following requirements:

- Unemployed but may be receiving Temporary Assistance or other income;
- Employed 20 hours or less per week;

- Participating in an education or job training program;
- Living in a shelter or temporary housing;
- A teen parent;
- Referred by the state agency as being “at risk” for physical, emotional, social, or educational abuse/neglect.

Services are provided via home visits and at group training and networking activities. Families may be provided books and developmentally appropriate toys, as well as incentives for their participation. Home Visitation programs are also required to provide services that address literacy in the home. This is a voluntary program for families.

This program incorporates protective factors and strategies identified in the *Strengthening Families through Early Care and Education* research as being the most effective in reducing incidents of child abuse and neglect. Programming focuses on the child's social-emotional development, reducing parental stressors, identifying developmental delays in children and helping them access services to address the delay, and promoting literacy among the families.

A listing of the agencies awarded the Home Visitation contracts is attached to this memo. The contractors are to provide the services listed above for Fiscal Year 14 (July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014).

Home Visitation, when accessed, can have a direct bearing on the actions that Children's Division staff takes in their day-to-day interactions with clients. Through regularly scheduled, direct in-home services and group activities addressing parent education and child development, a client's participation in the Home Visitation Program can help ensure:

- A reduction in the recurrence of maltreatment of children.
- Improvements in access and delivery of services.
- Consistency in addressing risk of harm.
- Consistency in addressing families' needs for services and/or provision of services.
- Availability and accessibility of needed services.
- Full engagement of parents and children in case planning.
- Increasing frequency of home visits to ensure that family needs are being met.
- Input to Children's Division field staff for consideration in case planning, service delivery, and goal attainment through the Family Support Team involvement.
- Diligence in efforts to meet children's early educational needs.
- Assessment of mental health needs of the parent (*as well as developmental and social/emotion needs of the child*) and provision of mental health services.

Children's Division staff are encouraged to become familiar with the Home Visitation Program in their particular geographic area and partner with their local agency to create a referral process.

NECESSARY ACTION	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review this memorandum with all Children’s Division and Family Support Division staff. 2. All questions should be cleared through normal supervisory channels and directed to: 	
PDS CONTACT Nancy Reid 573-522-2316 Nancy.L.Reid@dss.mo.gov	PROGRAM MANAGER Alicia Jenkins 573-751-6793 Alicia.Jenkins@dss.mo.gov
CHILD CARE MANUAL REVISIONS N/A	
FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS N/A	
REFERENCE DOCUMENTS AND RESOURCES Home Visitation Program Listing	
RELATED STATUTE N/A	
ADMINISTRATIVE RULE N/A	
COUNCIL ON ACCREDITATION (COA) STANDARDS N/A	
CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES REVIEW (CFSR) N/A	
PROTECTIVE FACTORS Parental Resilience – Yes Social Connections – Yes Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development – Yes Concrete Support in Times of Need – Yes Social and Emotional Competence of Children – Yes	
FACES REQUIREMENTS N/A	