

ISSUED DATE: December 5, 2025

TO: Children's Division Contracted Staff

FROM: Sara Smith, Children's Division Director

SUBJECT: **Prevention Referrals**

OVERVIEW:

We are pleased to announce the completion of the Prevention referral condition for Prevention referrals to be assigned to the Central Office Prevention team. There are two conditions for Prevention referrals:

1. Family or caregiver(s) in need of services to address parenting supports, physical, mental, and behavioral health and/or
2. Family in need of economic or community supports.

Condition two went into effect on 11/01/25 and condition one went into effect on 12/01/2025 at 8:00 am. These Prevention referral conditions will allow Prevention workers to engage with families and connect them to community resources and services.

A comprehensive policy revision of CWM 3.1 Prevention Program is currently in development and will supersede and replace this Practice Alert.

NECESSARY ACTIONS:

As of 12/1/2025 concerns for families will be screened by CANHU for appropriate assessment and assignment. If there are no allegations of child abuse or neglect and the situation meets the condition of a Prevention referral, an alert will be sent to the central office Prevention unit for assignment. Coverage for these referrals will be statewide.

Section 3, Chapter 1, subsection 4 Prevention Eligibility is no longer valid. If a CD-334 is received from a community partner, the prevention worker will need to notify the referee to call the Child Abuse and Neglect hotline.

The CD-326, Consent for Prevention Services, should not be used after 12/01/2025.

The Prevention Program does not work with families when there are allegations of abuse or neglect and those families who have current involvement with the Children's Division. If a Prevention referral is received on a family who has a current open report or case (Investigation/ Assessment/ Referral, FCS, AC), the report will be

sent to the circuit for local assignment. The local circuit should have a process in place in which to assign the Prevention referral to the worker assigned to the open case.

Prevention workers should assist team members by sharing needed resources across program lines to support families.

Examples of areas of need in which a Prevention worker may collaborate with families under condition one include:

- Family or Caregiver Health needs-this could include access to healthcare, physical, mental, and social well-being of any family members in the home.
- Connecting a family/caregiver or child to mental health needs
- Connecting a family/caregiver or child to behavioral health needs
- Connection to System of Care, a community-based group who assist in providing formal and informal supports for family/caregiver or child.
- **Parental Education:** Direct provision of parental education referrals to community programs for parenting supports to address concerns such as safe sleep, parental stress, and crisis management. Referrals to support groups such as Parent Cafes, Parents as Teachers, Home Visiting, Crisis Care, and other advocacy programs.
- **Substance Use/Misuse:** Prevention referrals may include situations where there are concerns of substance use or misuse and there is a need for resources/assistance.

Examples of areas of need in which a Prevention worker may collaborate with families under condition two include:

- **Transportation:** Connection/assistance with transportation needs for a family for such times as a doctor and dentist appointments, school, etc.
- **Hygiene:** Assistance with receiving referrals to community resources and programs to assist with things such as head lice, hygiene supplies, and laundry assistance or supplies.
- **Clothing:** Assistance with referrals to community programs to assist with clothing needs for the family/children; Connection to clothing closets and/or other programs that could assist with obtaining clothing for families.
- **Housing:** Assistance with connecting to services for household/housing concerns; Assistance with bug or rodent treatment; Housing needs, such as cleaning supplies; Referrals for weatherization assistance; Referrals for utility assistance; Referrals for rental assistance and other general home needs.
- **Food:** Assistance with referrals to state and federal programs such as SNAP and TANF; Connection to community programs, such as food pantries and community meal sharing.

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CHILD WELFARE MANUAL POLICY AND COLLATERAL DOCUMENTATION: