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	Contact: Leslie Adams 517-335-0988	
	Originating Office: Health, Education and Youth Unit (HEYU)	
	Subject/Title: Mental Health Screenings for Foster Children-Updates	
	Distribution: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DHS Child Welfare Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BCAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Agency Child Welfare Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CWTI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSA Central Office Managers/Staff <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SACWIS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Native American Tribes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Data Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DHS County Directors <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

A mental health screening is required for every foster child at each well-child exam (initial, periodic and yearly). Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) Medicaid provider policy effective April 1, 2013, http://www.michigan.gov/documents/mdch/MSA_13-06_412853_7.pdf, requires the primary care provider (PCP) to use a validated and normed screening instrument for foster children. The MDCH recommended mental health screening instruments are:

- The Ages and Stages Questionnaire: Social-Emotional (ASQ: SE) for children up to age 5 1/2 years, or
- The Pediatric Symptom Checklist (PSC), for children ages 5 1/2 years and older.

Earlier this year, the Health, Education and Youth Unit (HEYU) Program Office facilitated several statewide web/telephone conferences with local DHS offices and placement agency foster care (PAFC) organizations. The conferences focused on an orientation of the new MDCH policy, utilization of the recommended screening tools and the changes in CPS/foster care/adoption practice necessary to ensure foster children and youth receive a quality screening with subsequent mental health referral and treatment as needed. This communication provides further implementation details on the mental health screening process.

This process requires that caseworkers have knowledge of the DHS health care policies, screening instruments and the role of the primary care provider (PCP) in the mental health screening (per MDCH policy). Additionally, current practices may need to be fine-tuned to ensure coordination between CPS and foster care and to establish supportive measures between foster care and PCPs. Each local DHS office and PAFC organization must develop a plan to ensure the availability and completion of the age-appropriate mental health screening questionnaire and timely delivery of the completed tool to the PCP office. The plan will:

- Ensure that the mental health screening tools (paper copies of the ASQ: SE and PSC) are available to all child welfare staff.
- Outline training to direct care staff on the process of engaging families (birth and foster and any other caregivers) in completing the ASQ: SE and PSC within the MiTEAM Practice Model.
- Describe general office paper-flow procedures.

To assist the field in developing their individual plan, HEYU has created a package of information and tools supporting this process. During the month of August, each DHS office and PAFC organization will receive the HEYU informational package addressed to the County or PAFC Director, containing the following:

- Introductory letter from Jeanette Scheid, M.D., Ph.D., DHS Medical Consultant, outlining requirements for the staff training and office procedures to incorporate the mental health screening tools into practice.
- Mental Health Screening Training Plan Documentation Form. Each DHS and PAFC office will document their agency's training and practice plan on the form and return to Ashley Wills at WillsA@michigan.gov by September 16, 2013.
- Ages & Stages Questionnaires: Social-Emotional Tool Kit Box containing:
 - ASQ: SE User's Guide
 - ASQ: SE Product Overview
 - Series of eight ASQ: SE questionnaires (photocopiable print masters)
 - CD-ROM with printable PDF master copies of the ASQ: SE questionnaires
- Mental Health Screening Job Aid for staff describing the two recommended mental health screening tools, ASQ: SE and PSC, and the staff role in implementing the screening tools. The link to initial HEYU conference training on Medicaid policy and mental health screenings is included within the job aid.

As indicated in the statewide web/telephone conferences, staff training of the mental health screening process is included in the development of the training plan. DHS and PAFC offices child welfare staff are to begin using the two mental health screening tools (ASQ: SE and PCL) upon receipt of the materials and training completion. Training plans are due by 09-16-13, the mental health screenings are to be implemented prior to or on that date. Additional information is found in the foster care policy manual, FOM 802, Mental Health, Behavioral and Developmental Needs of Foster Children (released 07-01-13).

Questions may be directed to the HEYU office at (517) 373-2591.