Dear Child Welfare County Director,

The Fostering Health Partnerships Learning Collaborative events highlighted the critical importance of developing and maintaining relationships between child welfare and health care teams. Attendees also acknowledged that achieving consistent collaboration is a challenging task. Child welfare teams from leadership through management to direct services staff change over time, as do health care providers serving a county or region. Each partner approaches the work from his/her perspective first, and only with resources and information can incorporate other partners' perspectives. Because children in foster care have unique needs, child welfare leadership is the best equipped to provide the information that health care providers need to do their best job serving the health and well-being needs of these children.

This toolkit is designed to assist child welfare teams in engaging the health care provider community to support the ongoing work of cross-systems collaboration. Each electronic orientation document has the flexibility to insert information specific to the county/counties you lead. Each action guide is intended to provide general recommendations that you can customize for your purpose.

The documents in the toolkit include:

- Outreach materials to orient health, mental health and dental providers to the needs of children in foster care
- Instructions for inserting county-specific information in orientation materials
- Action steps to identify and welcome heath care providers new to the region
- Action steps to engage local/regional professional organizations
- Action steps to plan and execute stakeholder meetings

The Fostering Health Partnerships team and the MDHHS Child Welfare Medical Unit welcomes your feedback as you use these materials. We will continue to modify the materials to provide you with tools you need to engage in your work.

Sincerely,

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