**Child Welfare & Dental Provider Partnership**

**Child Welfare Goals**

Child welfare teams focus on three connected goals: Permanency, Safety and Wellbeing. From child protective services investigators, to foster care workers, supervisors, managers and directors, every member of the child welfare services system knows how important it is to work closely with health care providers to make sure that children’s needs are met, and that families are supported.

**Mandatory Dental Exams**

When children come into foster care, ***everyone*** recognizes that they are a higher risk of dental health issues. Due to this risk, Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) **requires** that every child one year and older has a dental exam within 90 days of entering foster care and every 6 months afterward.

* Sometimes when safety is a concern, children are removed before the foster care team can get comprehensive medical information. When this happens, foster care teams work with the child’s health/dental providers to make sure everyone has the information they need to meet the child’s needs.
* The child’s foster care worker is the first point of contact, but if they aren’t available, ask for a supervisor or for the Health Liaison Officer (HLO)
* MDHHS values a child continuing to work with his/her “Dental Home” whenever possible. This message goes out to all foster care workers and to foster parents.

**Did You Know?????**



**MDHHS Wants to Partner with You!!!**

To ensure children’s health, MDHHS and private agency foster care organizations ask for the following commitments by both members of the partnership:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **MDHHS**   * Make information available to dental care teams   + Child’s health information   + Child’s legal status   + Child’s family contacts * Make child welfare team members available to dental care teams   + Caseworker   + Health Liaison Officer * Maintain care in the child’s dental home * Make sure that recommendations happen | **Primary Care Offices**   * Work with child welfare to schedule dental exams within the 90 day requirement * Provide dental records to child welfare team * Welcome and support the child’s parents’ ongoing engagement * Contact child welfare team members with any concerns about care |

**Quick Facts about “Enter county name.”**

* **“Enter text.”** children in foster care from **“Enter county name.”**
* **“Enter text.”** children in foster care whose case is in another county
* **“Enter text.”** children whose goal is reunification
* **“Enter text.”** children who are wards of the state/Michigan Children’s Institute

Key Contacts in **“Enter county name.”**

County Director: **“Enter county director name.”**

Health Liaison Officer (HLO): **“Enter HLO name.”**

Private Agency Foster Care Organizations: **“Enter PAFC organization names.”**