



# Fostering Health Partnerships

## **How do I address health and mental health needs during placement changes?**

When a child must change placement, it is important to think through the effect of that placement change on the child's health and mental health care services. A child may need to start seeing a new primary care provider, shift to a new mental health provider and may need to enroll in a new Medicaid Health Plan. Some of the activities related to a placement change are listed specifically on the DHS-69, but some are not. This guide will walk you through what issues to discuss during a placement change Family Team Meeting and where to document this discussion on the DHS-69 form.

At Family Team Meeting for placement change discuss the following to plan changes in health/mental health care:

1. Will the change require finding a new primary care doctor for the child?
  - If no, the only communication will be to the primary care office to let them know a different foster parent will have custody. If this change will also affect parental access (e.g. change in supervision), the office should be informed.
  - If yes, discuss the following:
    - Who will make the referral for a new provider?
    - How will the current provider be notified?
    - Who will work with the parent/guardian and current provider office to ensure that medical records get sent to the new provider?
2. Will the change require finding a new mental health team for the child?
  - If no, the only communication will be to the mental health provider(s), letting them know of the new foster parent, and if any changes in parental contact/access.
  - If yes, discuss the following:
    - For a child with mild-moderate mental health needs served by a Medicaid Health Plan provider:
      - Who will make the referral for a new provider(s)?
      - How will the current provider(s) be notified about the change?
      - Who will work with the parent/guardian and current provider office to ensure that mental health records get sent to the new provider?
    - For a child with Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) served by a Community Mental Health Service Provider (CMHSP)
      - Who will make the referral for an intake with the County where the child will be residing?
      - Who from the current CMHSP will send information to the new CMHSP?

- Who will work with the parent/guardian and current CMHSP to ensure that mental health records are sent to the new CMHSP?
  - What is the best way to communicate with the new CMHSP so that they have the information needed to determine that the child remains eligible under SED criteria for services at the new CMHSP?
- 3. Is the child involved with any other specialty care that will be affected by the placement change?
  - If no, the only step will be to communicate to all providers about the new foster parent and any other issues that placement change might affect for that child
  - If yes, follow the steps for change in primary care
- 4. Is the child involved with Children’s Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)?
  - If no, no further action needed
  - If yes, but the placement is in the same county, the only step is to inform the Local Health Department about the new foster parent
  - If yes, and if the new placement is in a different county:
    - Contact the local health department in the child’s current and ask for their assistance transferring CSHCS services to the Local Health Department in the county where the child will be placed.
- 5. Will the child need to enroll in a new Medicaid Health Plan (MHP)?
  - Talk with your Health Liaison Officer (HLO) about this – if the child is moving to an area where there are limited/no providers who participate with the child’s existing MHP, it may be necessary to ask for special disenrollment from the existing plan and enrollment in a new plan. The HLO will help with this process if needed.
- 6. If the child is taking any prescription medications? If so, see “How Do I: Get an emergency early refill” – focusing on the steps to avoid needing an early refill.
- 7. Document the discussion and planning from the Family Team Meeting in the DHS-69 within the “Describe how the child, parent(s), previous placement, and new placement were prepared....” Section. See sample ([hyperlink to this document](#)). If needed, attach any additional documents to the DHS-69.
- 8. Ensure health information is up to date in MiSACWIS Health Screens so that the Medical Passport will contain accurate and up to date information.