
		<b>DHS, Head Start Program Policy</b>			
<b>WELLNESS SUPPORT SERVICES 1</b>					
<b>SUBJECT</b>		Identification and Intervention through Wellness Support Services			
<b>REFERENCE</b>		Mental Health			
<b>EFFECTIVE</b>		10/15/2013			
<b>Policy Council Approval: 7/25/17</b>		<b>Policy Council Revision: 7/25/17</b>		<b>Governing Body Approval: 9/28/17</b>	
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**Policy:**

The Head Start Program will develop and implement procedures to ensure the effective provision of mental health services to Head Start children, their family members, and to Head Start staff through the program’s Wellness Support Services by utilizing professional mental health staff and consultants with experience in early childhood social-emotional development and in the provision of mental health services to young children, their families, and staff.

Head Start mental health professionals, behavior management specialists, and other designated staff will support the social-emotional development of children and the functioning of other family members and staff. The program will develop and implement procedures for the identification of children, families and staff that need behavioral supports and mental health services using evidenced-based practices.

Wellness Support Services will promote the social-emotional competence of children and the wellness of family members and staff by providing education and services at the following levels:

**Foundation - Effective Workforce**

The Head Start Program will provide services to children, families and staff in need of assistance. Emphasis will be placed on the provision of training and supports to staff to promote staff mental wellness so that they are better equipped to interact with children and families in healthier and more positive ways.

- **Tier I: Promotion - Nurturing and Responsive Relationships and High Quality Supportive Environments**

The Head Start program will promote the positive social-emotional development of all children by creating and implementing an approach that focuses on positive and nurturing relationships between staff, children and parents.

- **Tier II: Prevention - Targeted Social-Emotional Supports**

The Head Start program will promote the positive social-emotional development of identified children through parent and teacher education, classroom observations and teacher consultations to impact effective strategies that promote wellness.

- **Tier III: Intensive Intervention**

The Head Start program will respond to children, family members and staff in need of intensive interventions by providing consultation, referrals to community providers or direct clinical services. Services and referrals will be documented in the mental health area of ChildPlus.

The Head Start program will ensure compliance with all confidentiality policies, as required by law, including when documenting services, referrals and follow-up provided in all data management systems utilized by the Head Start program.

All mental health documentation must be entered according the *City of San Antonio Data Entry & Benchmark Due Date Guide*.

**Performance Standard:**

1302.45