



Systems of Care Division

Child Health and Disability Prevention Program County Director/Deputy Director Training – Section VII

Health Care Program for Children
in Foster Care

Realignment of Program Funding

- ❑ The Budget Act of 2011 included a realignment of public safety programs from state to local governments.
- ❑ Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care is one of the programs identified for realignment.
- ❑ With realignment, the foster care program funding will flow directly to the county Social Services departments, rather than to the local Child Health and Disability Prevention Programs, via the Department of Health Care Services, as legislated in the Budget Act of 1999. (See slide #8)

- ❑ As of FY 15-16, program funding has continued to flow through the Department of Health Care Services to the local programs because of the potential to maximize the enhanced federal matching funds for skilled professional medical personnel.
 - ❑ Child Health and Disability Prevention Programs are encouraged to discuss future roles of foster care nurses in Social Services departments as the funding flow may change to Social Services in FY 16-17.
 - ❑ Slides in the module will be modified as program changes occur.
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HISTORY

The trauma of family separation and frequent moves for foster children compound serious health conditions. Given this fact, foster children require more health services than other children, which they often fail to receive due to inadequate medical records and limited access to care.

Code Blue: Health Services for Children in Foster Care (1998)

- ❑ Report by the California Foster Care Children's Task Force: foster care children typically suffer serious health, emotional, and developmental problems and the causes of these conditions are multiple.
 - ❑ Recommendations of the Task Force included: develop a system of health care for children in foster care, improve coordination and delivery of services in counties, and hire Public Health Nurses.
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PROGRAM LEGISLATION

State Budget Act of 1999

- ❑ Appropriated State General Funds to the California Department of Social Services for the purpose of increasing the use of public health nurses in meeting the health care needs of children in foster care.

Assembly Bill 1111 (1999)

- ❑ Enabling legislation for the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care. It defined the components of the program and added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 16501.3(a) through (e).
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PROGRAM



Child Health and Disability Prevention Program Letter

Child Health and Disability Prevention Program Letter No. 99-6

- ❑ Describes the Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (as provided for by the State Budget Act of 1999 and the Welfare and Institutions Code section 16501.3). It states that funds to the California Department of Social Services will be transferred to the Department of Health Services, Children Medical Services, and will be distributed through the Child Health and Disability Prevention program in the form of an augmentation to the local Child Health and Disability Prevention program allocation.
 - ❑ California Department of Social Services and Department of Health Care Services developed a Memorandum of Understanding to ensure the availability of federal matching funds, which are available only to the Department of Health Services as the single agency (for Medicaid).
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Program Description

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- ❑ Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC) is administered through the local public health department Child Health and Disability Prevention Programs to provide public health nursing expertise in meeting the medical, dental, mental, and developmental health needs of children and youth in court-ordered out-of-home placement, or foster care.
 - ❑ The Foster Care Public Health Nurse's worksite should be in the Social Services office. The public health nurse works in tandem with the child's social worker or probation officer to ensure the needed health care resources are provided.
 - ❑ Documentation in the Health and Education Passport
 - ❑ Participation in interdisciplinary team conferences
 - ❑ Serves in an *administrative capacity*, linking the child to vital community resources
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Program Implementation Tools

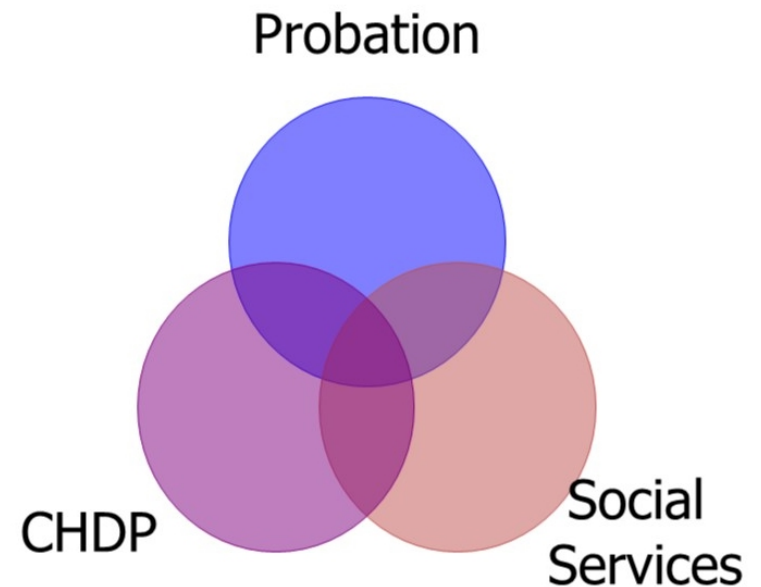
- ❑ Legislation
 - ❑ Memorandum of Understanding
 - ❑ Health Services
 - ❑ Social Services
 - ❑ Probation
 - ❑ Scope of Work
 - ❑ Public Health Nurse Duty Statement
 - ❑ [Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care Resource Guide](#)
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Legislative Mandates

- ❑ Foster Care nurses must be public health nurses and must be housed within Social Services
 - ❑ Purpose: enhance physical, mental, dental, & developmental well being of foster children
 - ❑ Serves as liaison with health care professionals
 - ❑ Collaborates with Social Services/Probation workers to coordinate health care services
 - ❑ Services provided must be limited to Title 19 mandates.
(NO Direct Care)
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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- ❑ The Child Health and Disability Prevention Program provides program oversight of activities of the public health nurse working with Social Services and Probation
- ❑ Social Services provides workspace for the public health nurse
- ❑ Probation works collaboratively with Child Health & Disability Prevention/Social Services within the Memorandum of Understanding



PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE RESPONSIBILITIES



Responsibility of Public Health Nurse in Memorandum of Understand/Scope of Work

Accessing Resources

- Identify & liaise with health care providers in the community
- Serve as resource & facilitate referrals
- Assist in out-of-county placement referrals

Health Care Planning & Coordination

- Collaborate with the Social Worker/Probation Officer to develop a health plan for each child expected to remain in out of home placement
 - Interpret health care reports
 - Obtain & provide medical input for the Health and Education Passport
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Training/Orientation

- Provide in-services for Social Services/Probation staff & foster care community

Policy/Procedure Development

- Participate in multi-disciplinary meetings for review of health-related issues

Transition from Foster Care

- Assist foster child & social worker with community health care resources & final Health & Education Passport update

Quality Assurance

- Participate in joint reviews, evaluation process & data development
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- ❑ Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care Public Health Nurse is limited to perform duties as specified within the MOU - **“No Direct Care”**
 - ❑ Some Social Services departments may hire Public Health Nurses. These nurses may perform duties, as specified by their funding source and may be different from those of HPCPFC nurses.
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PM 160 PROCESS

PM 160 comes to Child Health & Disability
Prevention local office from the provider's office

PM 160 is forwarded to Foster Care Public Health
Nurse

PHN reviews PM 160; collaborates with SW,
Medical Provider, Substitute Care Provider;
identifies resources; makes appropriate referrals

PHN assures all documentation is in the child's
Health and Education Passport

REFERENCES

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- ❑ [Code Blue - Health Services for Children in Foster Care](#)
 - ❑ [Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care](#)
 - ❑ [Child Health and Disability Prevention Program](#)
 - ❑ [Children's Medical Services](#)
 - ❑ [California Foster Care Public Health Nurse Directory](#)
 - ❑ [Regional Meeting Calendar](#)
 - ❑ [Web Resources and Publications](#)
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Contact Information

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