

	DHS Early Head Start Program Policy		
WELLNESS SUPPORT SERVICES 1			
SUBJECT	Identification and Intervention through Wellness Support Services		
REFERENCE	Mental Health		
EFFECTIVE	10/1/2020		
Policy Council Approval: 7/26/16	Policy Council Revision: pending	Governing Body Approval: 9/19/16	Governing Body Revision: pending
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Policy:

The Early Head Start Program will develop and implement procedures that support a program-wide culture of promoting mental health, social emotional well-being, and overall health and safety that includes identification and the provision of mental health services to Early Head Start children, their family members, and to Early Head Start staff.

Wellness Services will be provided by qualified mental health professionals 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.

Wellness Services may include consultations or individualized support promoting the social-emotional development of children, family members and staff by implementing practices from a research based tiered approach at the following levels:

Foundation – Effective Workforce

The Early Head Start Program will provide training and supports to staff to promote staff well-being so that they are able to cultivate supportive and caring relationships with children and families.

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

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

The EHS program will provide staff with training and support to create inclusive and supportive classroom environments for learning and development. Opportunities will also be provided to parents/guardians to create supportive home environments for children and families.

Tier II: Prevention - Targeted Social-Emotional Supports

The Early Head Start program will support the social-emotional development of identified children by providing parent and teacher consultations and individualized wellness support services to prevent behavior concerns.

Consultation and wellness support services will include developmentally appropriate strategies that support self-regulation, expressing and understanding emotions, developing social relationships and problem-solving.

The Early Head Start Program will develop and implement a system to document, report and track referrals, consultations, and observations for targeted wellness supports.

Tier III: Individualized Intervention

The Early Head Start program will respond to children, family members and staff in need of individualized interventions by providing consultation and wellness support services that may include referrals to community providers or direct intervention services.

The Early Head Start Program will develop and implement a system to document, report and track referrals, consultations, and observations for intensive interventions.

The Early Head Start Program will develop and implement a system to respond to mental health emergencies.

The Early 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 to the *City of San Antonio Data Entry & Benchmark Due Date Guide*.

Performance Standard:

1302.45; 1302.46