

Vision Statement



Maryland Early Childhood Mental Health Steering Committee

April 2008

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Vision Statement

Maryland commits to partner with families, providers and other stakeholders to:

- Create a full continuum of high quality physical, mental and behavioral health services for young children, prenatal to age six, and their families.
- Strengthen families' efforts to identify and access care that supports their child's physical, social and emotional well-being.
- Maximize existing resources and fully fund the entire continuum of services.
- Deliver mental health supports and services through partnerships and competent, caring providers in settings where children live, learn and grow.
- Develop a workforce that provides quality early childhood care by improving recruitment and retention strategies and offering training opportunities that build the capacity of early childhood providers to prevent, identify, treat and reduce the impact of mental health problems among children birth to age 6.*

*(Cohen and Kaufmann, 2000)

Create a full continuum of high quality physical, mental and behavioral health services for young children, prenatal to age six, and their families.

Policy

- Build capacity to provide a range of early childhood mental health services
- Provide funding for an ongoing evaluation of early childhood mental health consultation programs so that stakeholders have access to data on program effectiveness and outcomes toward establishing fidelity
- Strengthen pediatric outreach
- Expand ECMH Consultation to more settings
- Evaluate and address gaps

Public Awareness

- Commitment to cultural competency in promotion and prevention interventions targeting children's social emotional development and mental health
- Commitment to fully partnering with families to build a system of care that is easily accessed and includes readily available information and parent education

Strengthen families' efforts to identify and access care that supports their child's physical, social and emotional well-being.

Policy

- Expand and fund services to families at risk for poor outcomes due to poverty, family and community violence, substance abuse, and/or maternal depression
- Grow champions of ECMH in State and Local Government
- Strengthen pediatric outreach

Professional Development

- Engage key stakeholders in developing conferences
 - Regional meetings to complete and support local planning
 - Annual MCC/MSDE Mental Health Conference
 - Ongoing local conferences
- Partner with faith-based community to support the needs of local neighborhoods

Public Awareness

- Develop a public awareness plan targeting promotion of social emotional development for early care and education providers
- Commitment to cultural competency in promotion and prevention interventions targeting children's social emotional development and mental health

Maximize existing resources and fully fund the entire continuum of services.

Policy

- Identify additional sources of funding to support mental health consultation services
- Expand and fund high quality training for childcare and other direct service providers in young children's social emotional development
- Provide funding for an ongoing evaluation of early childhood mental health consultation programs so that stakeholders have access to data on program effectiveness and outcomes
- Increase funding and protect resources
- Grow champions of ECMH in State and Local Government
- Coordination of Policy and Public Awareness
- Expand reimbursement for physical and mental health and developmental screening, assessment, and treatment in the somatic, mental, and behavioral health arenas

Professional Development

- Expand ECMH Certificate Program for master-level and bachelor-level early childhood specialists
- Engage key stakeholders in developing conferences
 - Regional meetings to complete and support local planning
 - Annual MCC/MSDE Mental Health Conference
 - Ongoing local conferences
- Partner with faith-based community to support the needs of local neighborhoods

Deliver mental health supports and services through partnerships and competent, caring providers in settings where children live, learn, and grow.

Policy

- Continue the development of local systems of care for young children and their families concurrent with State level policy and infrastructure development
- Grow champions of ECMH in State and Local Government
- Inform and enlist Children's Cabinet
- Expand reimbursement for physical and mental health and developmental screening, assessment and treatment in the somatic, mental and behavioral health arenas

Public Awareness

- More inclusion of family's voice and building a system of care that is easily accessed by families, including readily available information and parent education
- Commitment to cultural competency in promotion and prevention interventions targeting children's social emotional development and mental health

Develop a workforce that provides quality early childhood care by improving recruitment and retention strategies and offering training opportunities that build the capacity of early childhood providers to prevent, identify, treat and reduce the impact of mental health problems among children birth to age six.

Policy

- Continue to fund the existing pilot sites and expand early childhood mental health consultation statewide
- Expand and fund high quality training for childcare and other direct service providers in young children’s social emotional development
- Grow champions of ECMH in State and Local Government

Professional Development

- Full implementation of CSEFEL modules in early care settings Statewide
- ECMH Certificate Program
- Inclusion of Social Emotional Development in pre-service training for early care and education providers
- Conferences
 - Regional meetings to complete and support local planning
 - Annual MCC/MSDE Mental Health Conference
 - Ongoing local conferences

Public Awareness

- Cultural competency in sending forth the message about children’s social emotional development and mental health

Find additional early childhood mental health information at the following websites:

- a. <http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/MSDE/divisions/child-care>
- b. <http://www.mdecgateway.org/10114>