Early Childhood Mental Health Program

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Program History

• Kentucky's Early Childhood Mental Health Program (ECMHP) was created in 2003 as the statewide early childhood development initiative, KIDS NOW, the majority of which is now administered by the Governor’s Office of Early Childhood.

• ECMHP is co-administered by the Children’s Behavioral Health and Recovery Services Branch within the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) and the Early Childhood Promotion Branch within the Department for Public Health (DPH) through a Memorandum of Agreement.

• DBHDID contracts with the 14 Regional Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) for program implementation.

• The program maintains contracts with the University of Kentucky for ECMH training and consultation, and with Eastern Kentucky University for staffing and resources related to ECMHP.
Program Goals

There are 18 ECMHP specialists whose time is devoted solely to their regional ECMHPs and to building regional capacity to better meet the social, emotional, and behavioral needs of children in Kentucky from birth through age 5, and their families. The primary goals of the ECMH are to provide:

• Program and child-level consultation on social, emotional, and behavioral issues to programs that serve children from birth through age 5.

• Training on working with young children with social, emotional, and behavioral needs and their families, to child-serving agencies and others.

• Evaluation, assessment, and therapeutic services to children from birth through age 5 and their families.
EC Partners & Collaborations

- Licensed Child Care Centers and Certified Family Home Providers
- Child Care Aware
- Primary Care Providers/Pediatricians
- Local Health Departments - WIC, Breastfeeding, Immunizations, Safe Sleep
- DCBS Division of Child Care: Child Care Assistance Program
- DCBS – Division of Protection & Permanency - Child Welfare & Prevention such as Community Collaboration for Children
- Community Early Childhood Councils
- Early Childhood Mental Health Specialists
EC Partners & Collaborations

- HANDS- Home visiting program for prenatal to age 2
- First Steps – KY Early Intervention Services for ages 0 – 3
- Early Head Start & Head Start
- Child Care Health Consultation for a Healthy Start in Child Care
- Office for Children with Special Health Care Needs
- Kentucky Partnership for Families and Children (Family Federation) & other family advocates, parent support groups, MOPS
- Faith-Based Community Partners
- Local Behavioral Health Providers
- KY-Moms MATR (Maternal Assistance Toward Recovery)
Community Mental Health Centers

- Children and youth behavioral health services (age birth – 19)
- Adult behavioral health services
- Developmental and intellectual disabilities services
- Prevention services
- Substance use treatment services
- Specialized services for transition-age youth and young adults (age 15 – 25)
Questions?
Contact Information:

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