



Health Care Oversight and Coordination Plan

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Section 422(b)(15)(A) of the Act requires states to develop a plan for the ongoing oversight and coordination of health care services for children in foster care. States must develop the plan in coordination with the state title XIX (Medicaid) agency, and in consultation with pediatricians and other experts in health care, and experts in and recipients of child welfare services.

The MDCPS Nursing Unit is now referred to as the Coordinated Care Unit. In the Coordinated Care unit, the nurses will work closely with the Treatment Navigators to provide the specialists and other staff the support and assistance needed to meet the health care goals of the youths in care. Through partnership with the specialists, families, and the community, nurses advocate ensuring children and youth receive services that promote optimal growth, development, health, and well-being and improve their long-term outcomes. The Coordinated Care and Prevention Department consists of medical case management (nurses), Prevention Coordinators, Interpreter, Education, and Therapeutic Placement Services. The Nurses oversee the implementation of the State's Health Care Oversight and Coordination Plan.

The Health Care Oversight and Coordination Plan was revised and utilized effective 1/2020. This plan's revision focuses on providing ongoing support to the specialists to help meet the needs of the families and children they serve. This plan is also designed to strengthen activities that improve the healthcare and oversight of children and youth in foster care. The guidance of the Joint Stipulated Order, which was effective from October 1, 2021, to January 31, 2023, highlighted the timelines of services for children entering foster care and during that time MDCPS focused on improving well-being outcomes. The Coordinated Care Unit continues to follow the guidelines to ensure that all children in foster care needs are met. The current timeframes being adhered to are that all children entering custody must have an initial medical within 7 days of custody start date. A comprehensive Medical Exam (EPSDT) within 30 days of custody start date and yearly thereafter. A Mental Health Exam must be completed within 30 days of custody start date for ages 4 and older. A Dental Exam is due within 90 days of custody start date for ages 3 and older. A follow-up dental exam is due every 6 months thereafter for ages 3 and older.

The Coordinated Care Unit is staffed with four (4) nurses. Each nurse is assigned service areas to ensure statewide coverage and all support and fundamentals from the Coordinated Care Unit is provided as needed. Nurses are responsible for assessing the children's overall health needs, including identification of family strengths and needs, through medical record reviews, treatment meetings and contact with specialists, birth families, resources families, physicians, providers, and youths. The nurses monitor follow-up and response to the health plan, advocate for children's health care needs, intervene and advocate to ensure continuity of care and improved health care outcomes and provide health education and anticipatory guidance to the specialists, resource families, providers, and youth. The nursing staff also continue to focus on assisting specialists, foster children, and contract providers, while periodically speaking with community stakeholders to increase access to resources. The nursing staff utilizes the Snapshot for children coming into MDCPS custody to assist with insuring our foster children are gaining medicals, EPSDTs, dentals,

and mental health assessments, according to MDCPS Policy and the MSA. The Nurses utilize reports from Magnolia Healthcare, such as, Foster Care Members report, Psychotropic Medications/Foster Care report, and EPSDT Noncompliance Report. These reports indicate which children have medical bills currently being paid by Magnolia and which children have been discharged. It also provides a list of children by age on psychotropic meds and the medications that have been given. Nurses use this report to drive the nursing support that is provided to specialists and foster parents. The nurses also use these reports to determine strengths, weaknesses, needs and opportunities to assist with securing additional medical services. Coordinated Care Unit nurses continue to educate specialists on the purpose and function of the MDCPS nursing staff and provide support as needed. The Nursing staff educates community stakeholders regarding signs and symptoms of child abuse, and they provide education and support to school personnel regarding child abuse awareness in the school system and mandated reporting for school personnel. Coordinated care is staffed with four (4) nurses and will now be able to resume presenting at conferences, trainings, and participating in statewide meetings.

The Coordinated Care Unit nurses also meets with MDCPS contract providers, such as Apelah, Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth, Methodist Children's Home, Canopy, and Hope Village, to discuss the role of the nurses and the support that the can be provided to the children in their licensed homes and group homes. MDCPS nursing staff provided face to face visits and conducted observation in hospitals. Coordinated Care Unit nurses have an ongoing working relationship with Permanency and well-being staff, Division of Licensure/Congregate Care, and Child Safety staff. The nurses also answer questions related to medication, medication changes, medical equipment and medical care for contracted staff and foster parents. Nursing staff also meet with foster children to discuss the importance for them to take their medication as prescribed for different diagnosis.

Magnolia Health Plan is still the managed care organization providing services to the state's foster children under Mississippi Coordinated Assess Network (MSCAN). They assist our specialists in locating medical, dental, and mental health services. Magnolia has approximately 15,000 providers in Mississippi and the surrounding states that are available to provide physical, mental health and dental services. Magnolia has providers in all 82 counties in Mississippi. MDCPS Nurses continue to collaborate with Magnolia case managers, medical providers, pediatricians, and other community stakeholders to ensure all children in foster care gain their needed appointments. Magnolia Health Plan has greatly enhanced the state's service array for foster children. They are afforded continuity of having a medical home, opportunities for more specialized services, case management services and follow up care. Because of the number of Magnolia providers our children will be able to be serviced within their communities. Currently, Magnolia Health Plan's current foster care category of eligibility members is a total of 4,780. This number has increased slightly since the last quarter. Magnolia Health continues to provide medical, dental, and mental health services to this population.

EPSDT is Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment (EPSDT). The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit provides comprehensive and preventive health care services for children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. Ongoing collaboration with practitioners and medical providers to clarify precise needs for screening/evaluation or services and ensure provider has the information needed to proceed.

EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, and developmental, and specialty services. EPSDT is:

- **Early:** Assessing and identifying problems early
- **Periodic:** Checking children's health at periodic, age-appropriate intervals
- **Screening:** Providing physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision, and other screening tests to detect potential problems
- **Diagnostic:** Performing diagnostic tests to follow up when risk is identified, and
- **Treatment:** Control, correct or reduce health problems found.

As reauthorized by the Family First Prevention Service Act (FFPSA) for Title IV-B, subpart 1, MDCPS has revised its Health Care Oversight and Coordination plan to meet this requirement. Listed below are the amended procedures and protocols to ensure that children in foster care are not inappropriately diagnosed with mental illness, other emotional or behavioral disorders, medically fragile conditions, or developmental disabilities, and placed in settings that are not foster family homes because of the inappropriate diagnoses:

- **Collaboration, as needed on all foster care cases, with the Mississippi Division of Medicaid and specialized case management teams within Magnolia Health Plan to ensure the ongoing management of medical, mental, dental, and behavioral health needs.**
 - MDCPS representatives will attend quarterly meetings with Magnolia Health plan and discuss reports for children with foster care eligibility type.
 - MDCPS Bureau Director will staff this information with the nurses. The nurses will then contact the Service Area Supervisor in their assigned areas by email for tracking purposes to notify them of issues that need to be addressed and to offer support.
 - MDCPS Bureau Director will provide Noncompliance EPSDT spreadsheet, provided by Magnolia, to the Assistant Deputy Commissioners and the Service Area Managers to notify them of the noncompliance and to offer support.
 - MDCPS has also posted a list of approved EPSDT providers to its internal website for access by county workers to assist workers with scheduling periodic medical examinations and all medically necessary follow-up services and treatment for children in foster care. EPSDT is:
 - **Early:** Assessing and identifying problems early
 - **Periodic:** Checking children's health at periodic, age-appropriate intervals
 - **Screening:** Providing physical, mental, developmental, dental, hearing, vision, and other screening tests to detect potential problems
 - **Diagnostic:** Performing diagnostic tests to follow up when a risk is identified, and
 - **Treatment:** Control, correct or reduce health problems found
- **Collaboration, as needed on foster care cases, with agencies coordinating placement of children identified as medically fragile to allow each child to be seen by an MDCPS nurse.**
 - MDCPS nurses will document visits and observation with medically fragile children and confirm to the best of their capabilities that each child is receiving

optimum care and receiving medical care as needed. These visits will occur when a request is made by the county of responsibility for the nurse to provide support and it is deemed necessary.

- Forty-Five (45) days follow up should be documented by MDCPS nurse on children identified as medically fragile whom they have visited. This documentation should include contact with the child's worker to ensure that the child is still receiving medical care as necessary and a follow – up visit from an MDCPS nurse when determined to be medically necessary.
- All children in foster care should have access to medical, dental, and psychological care to meet their needs. MDCPS Nurses will help connect county workers to providers that provide medical, dental, and psychological treatment as needed.
- **MDCPS Coordinated Care Unit serves as liaisons between the worker, medical professional (s), court authorities, law enforcement, units within MDCPS and others to coordinate the best care for the child.**
 - The Nurses are available to provide psychotropic medication consultation and answer questions regarding medications prescribed to the children in foster care.
 - The Nurses attend court hearings or submit addendums to court reports as requested or by order, to provide medical information to the judge and GAL regarding medical issues of children in foster care and the correlation between permanent plan and placement.
 - The Nurses collaborate with Congregate Care to provide appropriate procedures in medication management to facilities housing children in foster care.
 - The Nurses will accompany the Congregate Care Unit and Performance Based Contracting staff on licensure on-site visits as requested to ensure proper medication administration is observed and that medical access policies are adhered to and align with MDCPS policy and other certifying agencies (this is coordinated through Congregate Care).
 - The Nurses work ongoing, with Magnolia and other providers to assist them in remaining in contact with the MDCPS specialist as associated with a foster child to ensure the ongoing support and appropriate services are maintained.
- **Collaboration with pediatricians and other community partners to discuss ways to improve medical, dental, and psychological services for children in foster care as well as ways to ensure a continuum of care once reunification or adoption is achieved.**
 - Work and collaborate with pediatricians and community providers to maintain the Healthcare Oversight and Coordination Plan.
 - MDCPS nurses continue to monitor children entering custody reports monthly and follow up with worker by email until a medical, dental, and mental health assessment is documented for each child that enters custody.