

**Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services (MDCPS)
Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA)/
Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)
Program Improvement Plan (PIP)**

State/Territory: Mississippi

Date Submitted: August 10, 2017

Date Resubmitted: N/A

Date Approved: September 5, 2017

PIP Effective Date: September 5, 2017

End of PIP Implementation Period: June 30, 2018

End of Non-Overlapping Year: June 30, 2018

Reporting Schedule and Format: 90 day progress reports

PIP: Goal, Strategies, Action Steps, Updates

Goal:

Goal 1: Implement the CAPTA/CARA requirements within the MDCPS mission

Strategies:

Strategy 1:

Engage/Educate/Bring Awareness to the Public, Community Partners, and Stakeholders, including Mandatory Reporters

Action Steps:

- a. Communicate through various means with medical providers regarding notification requirements (e.g. hospitals, physicians, other medical providers)
- b. Post related information on MDCPS public website
- c. Post related information on MDCPS internal
- d. Ensure that public awareness is occurring from any reliable source and participate as needed.
- e. Collaborate with community partners and stakeholders to work toward solutions

Action Steps	Target Completion Date	Most Recent Status (current report date)	Most Recent Progress	Prior Report Status (prior report date)	Prior Progress
Communicate through various means with medical providers regarding notification requirements (e.g. hospitals, physicians, other medical providers)	09/15/17	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	Prior to the approval of the CAPTA/CARA PIP, MDCPS sent written correspondence to the Mississippi Hospital Association on July 18, 2017 and the State Medical Association on August 24 th . This correspondence consisted of notification procedures due to CARA requirements and procedures for reporting suspected child abuse. The medical providers also followed up with MDCPS by providing proof of dissemination by way of medical blogs and newsletters.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP
Post related information on MDCPS public website	11/30/17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	MDCPS is working with Mississippi State University, NSPARC, and the Office of the Children's Bureau (CB) to have all relevant and current federal reports, state plans, and PIPs posted to the agency's website. On November 15 th , 2017, the CAPTA/CARA PIP along with other required federal documents were posted to the agency's website. The CARA PIP can be viewed at the following link: https://www.mdcps.ms.gov/reports/	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP
Post related information on MDCPS internal website	10/30/17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	Federal Reporting met with Geocent on November 13 th , 2017, about using the SharePoint site for internal communication. The SharePoint site would have all relevant federal and state documents and would also allow MDCPS to appropriately archive and list these documents by topics for the agency and its stakeholders. This process is still in its infancy stages due to Geocent working with all MDCPS's program areas about posting relevant information internally and continuing its efforts to assist MDCPS's with developing the SharePoint site. On December 4 th , the agency's approved CAPTA/CARA PIP, approval letter from the Children's Bureau (CB), letter to medical provider, and annual CAPTA updates for FY 18, FY17 and FY 16 was posted to the MDCPS SharePoint site.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP
Ensure that public awareness is occurring from any reliable source and participate as needed.	Ongoing with completion by 06/15/2018	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	All children placed in MDCPS custody are provided access to health care services. MDCPS began collaborating with Magnolia Health (Magnolia) Plan in 2013 to provide services for foster children in Mississippi. MDCPS continues to work with Magnolia to increase early detection in children ages birth to 3. This is also a key step in identifying children that may be affected by Substance Abuse. Information from medical, dental and other specialized screenings provide additional information that	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP

			<p>sometimes leads to further assessment and may potentially reveal that lack of medical care, malnourishment or other types of abuse or neglect are the result of the caregivers Substance Abuse.</p> <p>MDCPS has a Nursing Unit that is staffed with Registered Nurses. These nurses are available to consult with front line social workers when they have questions about risk associated with prescription drugs that have been prescribed to children in foster care. The nurses are also available to provide front line workers, parents, guardians, foster parents who are involved with MDCPS guidance related to the proper disposal of unused and/or expired prescription medications. Their efforts are vital in keeping prescription medications out of the hands of children and adolescents with MDCPS cases once they are no longer prescribed or needed.</p> <p>On November 15, 2017 representatives from MDCPS attended a "Lunch and Learn with Legislatures and Physicians" sponsored by Help Me Grow Mississippi. The purpose of the luncheon was to dispense good information and create dialogue around the welfare of children and families. ReNew MS was briefly discussed and the efforts of the program to address the rise in women with addictions who are at risk of one or more of their children being placed in custody. MDCPS representatives are collaborating with the Mississippi Department of Mental Health to develop a process for MDCPS to refer women with addictions who are at risk of their children being placed in custody. MDCPS currently has plans to contact additional Community Partners and invite them in joining the agency in developing a monitoring plan.</p>		
Collaborate with community partners and stakeholders to work toward solutions	Ongoing with completion by 06/15/2018	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	On November 30, 2017, MDCPS met with Department of Mental Health about collaborating to develop a referral process and to assist MDCPS with getting referred parents and caregivers into treatment.		N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP

Strategy 2:*Develop Related MDCPS Policy***Action Steps:**

- a. Draft policy proposal and distribute for review and discussion to Field and State Office
- b. Finalize Policy and Have a Policy Bulletin Ready to Issue when coordinated with Training

Action Steps	Target Completion Date	Most Recent Status (current report date)	Most Recent Progress	Prior Report Status (prior report date)	Prior Progress
Draft policy proposal and distribute for review and discussion to Field and State Office	09/28/17	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	MDCPS has begun the process of drafting its CAPTA/CARA policy. On October 2017, the initial draft was submitted internally for review and feedback. MDCPS is also looking at the practice issues associated with the CAPTA/CARA requirements to ensure that practice is driving policy.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP
Finalize Policy and Have a Policy Bulletin Ready to Issue when coordinated with Training	10/30/17	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	Upon internal feedback, MDCPS has begun the process of collaborating externally with the MS Department of Mental Health. Dept. of Mental Health has agreed to collaborate with the state and will begin formalizing their commitment through a MOU for CARA referral procedures and substance abuse treatment for infants and families identified as being affected by substance abuse. MDCPS also recognized that more collaboration is needed to finalize the agency's current CAPTA/CARA policy.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP

Strategy 3:

Develop and Implement Plans on How to Monitor Plans of Safe Care, Collect Data, and Report Data

Action Steps:

- a. Engage Community Partners to join us in a monitoring plan
- b. Determine the composition of the monitoring group and guidelines
- c. Determine how information will be communicated between Field and State Office (Smartsheet, MACWIS, etc.)
- d. Develop data collection and tracking system
- e. Conduct the first session of monitoring by CARA Monitoring Panel

Action Steps	Target Completion Date	Most Recent Status (current report date)	Most Recent Progress	Prior Report Status (prior report date)	Prior Progress
Engage Community Partners to join us in a monitoring plan	Ongoing with completion by 5/29/2018	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	MDCPS will continue to collaborate with the MS Department of Mental Health and other state agencies on establishing clear policy and procedures for CAPTA/CARA referrals, treatment, evaluation and monitoring and data collection which is all contingent upon finalizing policy and establishing MOUs for statewide services.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP
Determine the composition of the monitoring group and guidelines	10/15/17	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	This action step is contingent upon the development of CAPTA/CARA policy and procedure.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP
Determine how information will be communicated between Field and State Office (Smartsheet, MACWIS, etc.)	10/15/17	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	Progress has been made in this area but completing this action step is also contingent upon the development of CAPTA/CARA policy and procedure. In addition, MDCPS has identified representatives from different program areas to establish a CAPTA/CARA work group. The first meeting was held on 11/28/2017 and the second meeting was held on 12/1/2017. As a result of the 12/1/2017 meeting, a recommendation for a substance use indicator has been made for MACWIS implementation. MDCPS also	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP

			considered how centralized intake and MACWIS would affect the movement of information related to CARA. Currently, MDCPS is reviewing whether our current centralized intake structure provides the most efficient way to meet the CAPTA/CARA obligations.		
Develop data collection and tracking system	10/15/17	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	This action step is contingent upon the development CAPTA/CARA policy and procedure.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP
Conduct the first session of monitoring by CARA Monitoring Panel	05/29/18	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	This action step is contingent upon the development and training of CAPTA/CARA policy and procedure.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP

Strategy 4:

Develop and Implement Training of CPS Staff and Pertinent Contracted Providers

Action Steps:

- a. Train MCI Intake Workers (contracted provider) - Initial Instructions Provided
- b. Provide any follow-up training needed for MCI Intake Workers (contracted provider)
- c. Train applicable CPS staff on CARA

Action Steps	Target Completion Date	Most Recent Status (current report date)	Most Recent Progress	Prior Report Status (prior report date)	Prior Progress
Train MCI Intake Workers (contracted provider - Initial Instructions Provided)	Ongoing with completion by 09/30/2017	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	On September 27, 2017, MDCPS sent the same letter of correspondence to its' MCI contract provider as the medical providers. This letter informed MCI staff about CAPTA/CARA reporting requirements and provided additional CARA resource links.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP
Provide any follow-up training needed for MCI Intake Workers (contracted provider)	Ongoing with completion by 11/30/2017	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	On November 29, 2017, A PowerPoint was provided to MCI to reinforce the information given to medical providers and to help intake workers understand that it also applies to legal drug use and situations where abuse or neglect is not suspected. Intake staff operates under the general guidance that ANE format is to be used if there are allegations of abuse and neglect and the Information and Referral process is to be used if there are no allegations or if information is insufficient for an abuse/neglect intake. More training will be provided upon the completion of policy.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP
Train applicable CPS staff on CARA	Completion by 03/30/2018	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	This action step is contingent upon the development CAPTA/CARA policy and procedure.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP

Strategy 5:*Obtain Governor's Assurance***Action Steps:**

- a. Submit Request and Related Documentation to Governor's Office
- b. Obtain Written Governor's Assurance

Action Steps	Target Completion Date	Most Recent Status (current report date)	Most Recent Progress	Prior Report Status (prior report date)	Prior Progress
Submit Request and Related Documentation to Governor's Office	04/20/18	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	This is contingent upon the status of the above mentioned strategies # 1-4.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP
Obtain Written Governor's Assurance	06/15/18	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	This is contingent upon the status of the above mentioned strategies # 1-4.	<input type="checkbox"/> Completed MM/YYYY <input type="checkbox"/> On/ahead of schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Behind schedule <input type="checkbox"/> No longer applicable	N/A-1 ST Progress Report to the PIP

Additional CAPTA Updates:

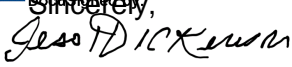
Since the annual CAPTA update submitted on June 30, 2017, MDCPS has identified (3) three additional CAPTA related updates. The first update is that the state acknowledges that it identified that the Human Trafficking training would be delivered on July 31, 2017. This training was actually conducted in August. It was the intent of MDCPS to identify and compensate a national speaker for this event but due to state procurement regulations this training was delayed for two (2) weeks.

The additional update is a proposed language change to address staff development for MDCPS employees. The previous language in the annual CAPTA update stated the following: “that the University of Mississippi has a Human Trafficking curriculum as well as our newly created process so the agency and our training partners will schedule all employees within our agency to receive this training by December 31, 2017. Any new hires after that date will receive Human Trafficking training during their Pre-Service training.”

The proposed language change would state the following: “MDCPS will deliver Human Trafficking training in each of the 14 regions of the state prior to December 31, 2017. In addition, policy and procedure updates will be added to Pre-Service training for all newly hired field staff to receive. MDCPS is also hosting training for special investigators who will be handling these types of investigations. A national speaker on Human Trafficking will offer a day long workshop to train on how to identify and assess for human trafficking. This will be conducted by August 31, 2017.”

Lastly, due to the transition from the MS Dept. of Human Services (MDHS) and recent administrative changes within MDCPS, the state has restructured its levels of leadership and program areas to align with its new vision and mission. As a result of these changes, previous staff identified in the CAPTA/CARA PIP are no longer with agency or serve in same capacity. Although these changes have been made, it is still a priority of the state to be in full CAPTA/CARA compliance by June 30, 2018.

We look forward to receiving feedback about our progress toward CAPTA/CARA compliance. Should you have any questions or concerns, please contact Taylor Cheeseman, Chief of Staff at 601-359-2090 or taylor.cheeseman@mdcps.ms.gov or Brian Lewis, Chief Legal Counsel/Director of Contracts, Procurement and Federal Reporting at 601-359-4495 or brian.lewis@mdcps.ms.gov.

Sincerely,

EBEA6224BCCC46B...

Jess H. Dickinson, Commissioner
Mississippi Department of Child Protection Services