

Interagency Agreement
Between
South Dakota Department of Education Head Start/Early Head Start Programs
And
South Dakota Department of Social Services, South Dakota Department of Health,
South Dakota Department of Human Services
Regarding Medicaid EPSDT services

I. Effective Date and Period of Understanding

This State – Head Start/Early Head Start Interagency Agreement is effective upon the signatures of the authorized officials of the above listed departments and will continue in effect until any party requests a change or provides written notice of termination.

II. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this Interagency Agreement is to establish a collaborative relationship between South Dakota’s local Head Start/ Early Head Start Programs and the State agencies responsible for services delivered to individuals eligible through the Medicaid program. The “State Medicaid Agency” is the Department of Social Services (DSS), and other departments involved are the Department of Health (DOH) and the Department of Human Services (DHS). The focus of the Medicaid program for the purposes of this agreement is on services to children age 0 to 6 and pregnant women.

III. Authority

Head Start/Early Head Start

The Head Start/Early Head Start Program is authorized by Title VI, Subtitle A Chapter 8, Subchapter B of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981, PL 97-35 (8/31/81) and amendments PL 103-218 (3/9/94), Title I of the Human Services Amendments of 1994, PL 103-252 (5/18/94), and Coats Human Services Amendments of 1998, PL 105-285 (10/27/98); and reauthorization of the Head Start Act originating from the *Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007*, PL110-134 (12/10/2007).

Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP)

The Medicaid Program is authorized by Title XIX of the Social Security Act (1965). Section 6401 of the Omnibus Budget and Reconciliation Act (OBRA) of 1989 (P.L. No. 101-239), expanded Medicaid eligibility to include pregnant women and children age 0-6 whose income is up to 133 per cent of the federal poverty level. Title XXI of the Social Security Act, enacted in 1997 by the Balanced Budget Act, authorizes Federal grants to States for provision of child health assistance to uninsured, low-income children. Both Medicaid and CHIP are jointly financed by the Federal and State governments and administered by the States. Within broad Federal rules, each State decides eligible groups and eligibility levels, types and ranges of

services, payment levels for benefit coverage, and administrative and operating procedures, but also has certain mandatory requirements to follow, as well.

The Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program refers to Medicaid services states participating in Medicaid must provide for children. The Federal Government for the purposes of EPSDT defines as children individuals below the age of 21. Services under EPSDT include, at a minimum: a comprehensive health and developmental history; a comprehensive physical exam; health education and anticipatory guidance; age-appropriate immunizations; laboratory tests appropriate for age and risk factors, vision, dental, and hearing services; then medically necessary services in an amount, scope, and duration necessary to correct or ameliorate defects and physical or mental illnesses or conditions discovered or shown to have increases in severity by the screening services. DSS as the State Medicaid Agency regularly reviews and provides up-to-date information and education on EPSDT to providers and recipients, and revises and updates as appropriate the Medicaid State Plan and administrative rules regarding EPSDT services and coverage.

IV. Cost

There is no cost associated with this agreement.

V. Responsibilities

State and local Head Start/Early Head Start, the State Medicaid Agency (DSS), DOH, and DHS agree to:

Communication, Information and Referral:

- Support and encourage on-going communications between local Head Start/Early Head Start and Medicaid agencies at the local level.
- Share information and explore areas for collaboration at the State and local levels.
- Encourage participation on each other's advisory councils or work groups.
- Utilize the Head Start State Collaboration Office as liaison/point of contact for Head Start matters.
- Refer potentially eligible persons to the other's program and assist them in applying.
- Facilitate case management at the local level.

Confidentiality:

- All agencies will exchange information within the constraints of applicable confidentiality regulations.

Head Start/Early Head Start agrees to:

1. Provide Performance Standards and Federal Policy updates.

Requirements in accordance with Federal Performance Standards include:

2. Within 90 days of a families' entrance into the program, determine if a child has an ongoing source of continuous, accessible health care, including medical and dental home.
 - Assist families in securing a medical home.
 - Assist families in accessing Medicaid providers for medical, dental and other health related services.
 - Determine whether children are up to date on immunizations and screenings according to the State's EPSDT guidelines and educate families regarding EPSDT check-ups, lead screening and immunizations.
 - Assist families in securing a dental home and accessing care in accordance with Head Start/Early Head Start Performance Standards and the Federally approved State Plan for EPSDT.
 - Provide or access appropriate health screenings including vision and hearing screening.
3. Ensure that enrolled children continue to follow EPSDT treatment plans and ensure follow-up treatment as indicated.
 - Assist parents in making necessary arrangements to bring the child up to date.
 - Develop procedures to implement and track a follow-up plan for the provision of health care services.
 - Obtain or arrange further diagnostic testing, examination and treatment by a qualified (licensed or certified) professional.
4. Distribute Medicaid eligibility and EPSDT program information, including enrollment applications to Head Start/Early Head Start families.
5. Educate families regarding South Dakota Medicaid's periodicity schedules for EPSDT Well Child Check-ups, lead screening, and immunizations.
6. Support families with scheduling and transportation for EPSDT appointments and examinations, and follow up.
7. Share information and coordinate with health care providers regarding Head Start/Early Head Start and EPSDT requirements.
8. Provide mental health services including the following:
 - Work collaboratively with parents to solicit their concerns, observations and other information regarding their child's mental health.
 - Help parents to better understand mental health issues and support their participation in any needed mental health interventions.
 - Secure the services of mental health professionals on a schedule of sufficient frequency to enable the timely and effective identification of and intervention in family and staff concerns about a child's mental health.
 - Involve mental health professionals in a regular schedule of on-site mental health consultation.

- Promote children's mental wellness by providing group and individual staff and parent education on mental health issues.
- Assist with designing program practices responsive to mental health and behavioral concerns and provide special help with atypical behavior or development.

SD Department of Health agrees to:

1. Provide Head Start/Early Head Start participant information to those participants' parents or legal guardians for the purpose of avoiding gaps or duplication in services to those children. Local Head Start/Early Head Start program staff may have access to participants' immunization information, as long as the children's information has been entered in the South Dakota Immunization Information System (SDIIS). Participant information from the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) may be provided for referral purposes only. Any other health information on the children can be shared with Head Start/Early Head Start program staff upon receipt of a signed Release of Information from the child's parent or legal guardian authorizing the disclosure.
2. Meet the requirements of Head Start/Early Head Start for comprehensive medical services through the provision of covered EPSDT screening services including: assessment of physical and mental development appropriate to the child's age; health education including anticipatory guidance; and appropriate immunizations.

SD Department of Human Services agrees to:

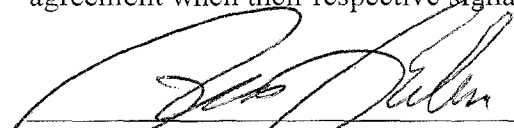
1. Continue to support mental health services for children enrolled in Medicaid/SCHIP.

SD Department of Social Services agrees to:

1. Continue to make available to Head Start/Early Head Start agencies information on updates to EPSDT reflecting CMS requirements.
2. Continue to provide Head Start/Early Head Start families with education regarding Medicaid funded services and EPSDT.

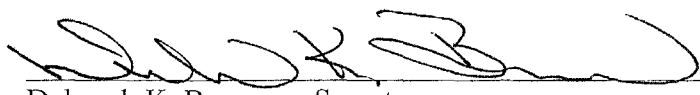
Signatures to this Agreement

The agencies which are parties to this agreement will only be considered agencies within the agreement when their respective signature page is received.



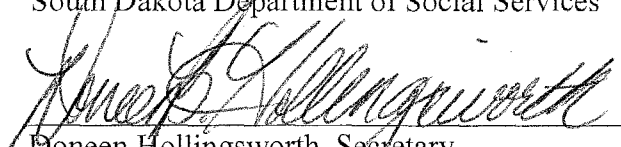
Dr. Riek Melmer, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Education

11/16/08
Date



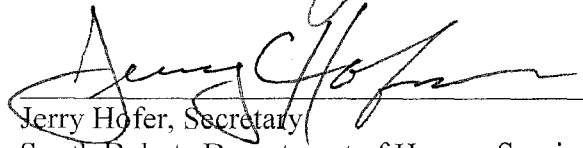
Deborah K. Bowman, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Social Services

11/24/08
Date



Doneen Hollingsworth, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Health

11/19/08
Date



Jerry Hofer, Secretary
South Dakota Department of Human Services

12/2/2008
Date