

BIG SANDY AREA HEAD START PROGRAM
CHILD HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

Goal Statement – Children receive health and developmental services to promote school readiness.

A. Determining Child Health Status

Objective 1: To determine child's health status no later than 90 days from the child's entry into the program.

1. During the child's enrollment process, program staff will interview review medical documents with parents to help make a determination as to whether or not each child has a source of continuous, accessible health care.
2. Big Sandy Area Head Start and delegate agencies will also determine whether or not each child has a source of funding for health services necessary to assure a prompt and complete assessment of child's health status.
3. If it is determined that a child does not have a continuous source of care, grantee and delegate staff will work with the parent to plan strategies for acquiring a medical home. Strategies will include:
 - a. Seeking assistance from the Health Services Advisory Committee to identify long-term providers, sources of funding for health services, and ways to inform community health providers about the health needs of Head Start children and families;
 - b. Working with the local Medicaid agency to determine a child's eligibility for medical assistance;
 - c. Carefully and periodically reviewing health records to ensure that recommended treatment and preventive services are being provided, and that plans are developed for treatment and follow-up.
4. Big Sandy Area Head Start and delegate agencies will maintain documentation of the determination of child's health care provider(s) and source of funding for health services.

Objective 2: To ensure that each child is up-to-date on a schedule of age appropriate and primary health care within 90 calendar days of the child's entry into the program.

1. Big Sandy Area Head Start and delegate agencies will obtain from a health care professional a determination as to whether each child is

up-to-date on a schedule of age appropriate preventive and primary health care which includes medical, dental and mental health. The well child care (EPSDT program schedule) will be followed.

2. For children who are not up-to-date on the well child care (EPSDT) schedule, Big Sandy Area Head Start and delegate agencies will assist parents in making arrangements for children to receive needed examinations and immunizations.
3. For children determined to be up-to-date on the well child care (EPSDT) schedule, Big Sandy Area Head Start and delegate agencies will insure that they continue to follow the recommended schedule by:
 - a. Discussing with parents the importance of prevention early intervention and well child care;
 - b. Speaking with parent's to ensure that they have arranged necessary appointments with health care if needed;
 - c. Assisting families in arranging for transportation to and from appointments, as well as locating child care professionals;
 - d. Providing other support, as necessary, to ensure appointments are kept;
 - e. Ensuring that the parents understand their child's eligibility for services under Medicaid programs and how to advocate for their child in a variety of health delivery systems.

Objective 3: To track and monitor the provision of health care services to children.

1. Big Sandy Area Head Start and delegate agencies will establish procedures to track the provision of health care services to children.
2. The grantee and delegate agencies will maintain health records for each child which will be used to:
 - a. Provide a child development program suited to the individual child;
 - b. Identify needed preventive and corrective care;
 - c. Assure that needed preventive and corrective care is arranged to unauthorized persons.
3. Child health records will be kept confidential and inaccessible to unauthorized persons.

4. The Grantee Health Services Manager will be responsible for monitoring the completion of all 45 and 90 day screenings and exams.
 - a. The HSM will provide Delegate Directors with a list of children who did not receive medical and dental screenings/exams within the required timeframe.
 - b. The delegate staff will provide documentation reasons or explanations for each child to explain why the screenings/exams were not obtained.
 - c. The HSM will use this documentation to explain any failure to achieve 100% completion of medical and dental screenings/exams.
 - d. Family Advocates will document on COPA under “Family Case Notes” any interaction that took place with the family regarding the child’s medical needs and what support strategies were offered.

Objective 4: To obtain or arrange further diagnostic testing, examination, and treatment for each child with a observable known or suspected health and developmental problem.

1. Big Sandy Area Head Start and delegate agencies will ensure that appropriate intervention occur for children needing further diagnosis, examination and treatment of health and developmental programs.
2. The grantee and delegate agencies will ensure that health and developmental problems receive competent and continuing care until the issues are remedied, or until ongoing care is established.
3. Together with parents, program staff will develop and implement a follow-up plan for and medical/dental, developmental, nutritional, or mental health problems identified.

Objective 5: To conduct developmental, sensory and behavioral screenings within the first 45 days of enrollment.

1. Grantee and delegate agencies will, in collaboration with the parents, perform or obtain behavior, vision, hearing, speech/language, and a developmental screening within the first 45 days of enrollment.
2. Big Sandy Area Head Start and delegate agencies will develop and implement screening procedures which conform to sound early childhood practice, are sensitive to the child’s cultural background, and produce valid, reliable results.
3. The grantee and delegate agencies will obtain direct guidance from a mental health or child development professional on how to interpret results and use findings to address identified needs.

4. The program will utilize multiple sources of information on all aspects of each child's development and behavior (i.e. screening results, parent observation/concerns, staff observations, etc.) in determining results.

Objective 6: To facilitate the implementation of follow-up and treatment for those children needing services.

1. To facilitate the implementation of a follow-up plan, Big Sandy Area Head Start and delegate agencies will have a system in place for on-going communication with the parents of children with identified health needs.
2. Grantee and delegate agencies will provide assistance to the parents in arranging transportation, obtaining prescribed medications, aids, or equipment for medical and dental conditions and discuss any issues or questions parents raise. The program staff will assist parents in learning how to communicate and work with health professionals,
3. Dental follow-up and treatment will include:
 - a. Fluoride supplements and topical fluoride treatments as recommended by the dental professional.
 - b. Other necessary preventive measures and further dental treatment as recommended by the dental professional.
4. Grantee and delegate agencies will assist with the provision of related services addressing health concerns in accordance with the child's Individualized Education Program. The Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.) defines the educational and service needs of a child with a disability.
5. Big Sandy Area Head Start and delegate agencies will help parents to access and use existing services and resources for medical and dental services. The program will determine that all available resources have been exhausted prior to use of Head Start funds.

Objective 7: To implement ongoing procedures by which staff can identify new or recurring medical, dental or developmental concerns.

1. Grantee and delegate agencies will develop and implement ongoing procedures by which Head Start staff can identify any new or recurring medical, dental or developmental concerns of children in a timely fashion.
2. Procedures will include periodic observations and recordings of individual children's development progress; changes in physical

appearance, emotional and behavior patterns. Procedures will include observations from parents and staff.

Objective 8: To involve the parents in all efforts to ensure that their child is enrolled and receiving appropriate health care services.

1. To ensure that each child enrolled is receiving appropriate health care services, grantee and delegate agencies will carry out the following:
 - a. Familiarize parents with the use and rationale for all health and developmental procedures administered through the program.
 - b. Obtain advance parent or guardian authorization for such procedures.
 - c. Ensure that the results of diagnostic and treatment procedures and ongoing care are shared with and understood by the parents;
 - d. Talk with parents about how to familiarize their children in advance about all the procedures they will receive while enrolled in the program;
 - e. Assist parents to enroll and participate in a system of ongoing family health care and encourage parents to be active partners in their children's health care process; and
 - f. Obtain written documentation of parent or legal guardian's refusal to give authorization for child's health services.

Objective 9: To determine how the program can respond to each child's individual characteristics, strengths and needs.

1. Big Sandy Area Head Start and delegate agencies will use the information from the developmental, sensory, and behavior screening, the ongoing observations, medical and dental evaluations and treatments and parents to determine how the program can best respond to each child's individual characteristics, strengths and needs.
2. The program will ensure that all children have an Individual Plan based on screening results, assessment, ongoing observations, and parental input.
3. Grantee and delegate agencies will support the individualization for children with disabilities. Children with a diagnosed disability will have an Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.) with specific interventions to meet their needs.