

Area: Mental Health Services

Subject: MH04 - Individual Child Observation

Reference: 1304.24(a)(1)(i-iii), 1304.24(a)(1)(v-vi), 1304.24(a)(2), 1304.20(a)(3), 1304.24(a)(3)(i-iv)

Policy: An individual child observation will be conducted to identify appropriate responses to behavior and appropriate intervention strategies for individual children with persistent atypical behavior.

Procedure:

1. During Child Success Team meeting if members determine that an individual child observation by a mental health professional is appropriate, written parent consent will be obtained. The Disabilities Supervisor will submit appropriate Mental Health request for an individual child observation to contracted Mental Health agency.
2. The mental health professional will contact site staff to schedule individual child observation. To set up an observation for FCCHs, the mental health professional will contact the Child Care Specialist who supports that provider to coordinate scheduling a FCCH observation.
3. The mental health professional will follow contracted timelines to provide individual child observation and strategies.
4. The mental health professional will provide support to staff/parents to strengthen supportive environments and relationships in the home and program.
5. Ongoing communication between mental health professional/staff/parent will take place to support the child's ongoing social emotional development.
6. In order to facilitate/document the implementation of the recommended intervention strategies, the educator and site supervisor will meet to develop an implementation plan. This plan will be documented using the Individual Social Emotional Observation Follow-up form.
7. Mental health professional will make recommendations for referrals to outside agencies when ongoing support and/or intervention are needed.
8. A follow up Child Success Team meeting will be scheduled to review: child progress, effectiveness of intervention strategies, and next steps as needed.

Supervised by: Child Development Supervisor, Program Coordinator, Disabilities Supervisor

Performed by: Head Start Teacher, Child Care Specialist, Early Head Start Caregiver, Center Supervisor, Child Development Specialist

Forms needed: Request for an Individual Child Observation
Child Success Team Request
Notification of a Child Success Team Meeting
Results of Child Success Team Meeting
Parent Consent/ Social Emotional Health Observation
Individual Social Emotional Observation Follow-up

Frequency: Ongoing