

**EOA of Washington County, Inc. Children's Services
2023-2024 Short and Long Term Improvement Plan**

Service Area: Disability and Mental Health

Date: May 2023

Proposed Outcome	Action Steps	Resources	Responsible Person(s)	Time Frame	Completion Date
Short Term Goals					
Focus on articulation specific DIAL training.	1. Set a date for training when school calendar year is established. 2. U of A to provide one additional articulation screener in addition to the DIAL assessment.	U of A College of Education and Health Professions, NWAESC	DSC, Center Directors	August 2023	<i>Ongoing</i>
Employ additional Mental Health/Behavior support staff to address escalating behavioral needs and mental health referrals in all centers.	1. Utilize available funding to hire in-house Mental Health/Behavior Therapist; 2. Hire additional Behavior Support Specialists that can support HS/EHS classrooms throughout county due to rising need. Revisit job description to ensure candidates have experience and/or education needed to support children and staff. 3. Establish Internal Observation referral procedure to address classroom issues 4. Support the mental health needs of children, classroom staff, and families. 5. Include training opportunities for Parents and staff.	Funding Opportunities	Program Director, HR Manager	October 2023	<i>Completed July 22, 2021 MHM position was created to coordinate BSS staff. Additional BBS to be hired August 2023</i>
Develop an inventory-tracking system of D/MH equipment to monitor usage and need for additional resources.	1. Collect all DMH equipment from all locations at end of school year; 2. Appraise condition of equipment and replace as needed if more than 50% depreciation; 3. Develop Excel spreadsheet to track equipment loaned to Centers.	Internal audit/spreadsheet	MHM Center Directors	August 2021	<i>Completed July 2021</i>
Initiate a structured PE program to reduce student & staff stress, minimize negative mental health effects, improve productivity and foster self-regulation skills.	1. Research Preschool Fitness programs 2. Utilize Quality Improvement funding to contract with a fitness program to provide weekly physical activities at each location.	Stretch-N-Grow, U of A, YMCA, Jones Center for Families	MHM, HSNC, HSAC	January 2024	<i>Ongoing Lack of community resources. Stretch-N-Grow no longer offered in area, 7/21 discussed with</i>

Reviewed & Approved by Policy Council:
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					<i>Carey Ashworth from Spark Foundation.</i>
Develop relationship with University Psychology Dept to secure Counseling intern(s)	1. Contact Dept Chair to inquire about internship program 2. Have 1-2 Counseling interns on-site to provide direct services and support to children, families, and staff. 3. Partner with existing mental health provider to facilitate collaborative effort	University of Arkansas	MHM Program Director	August 2024	<i>Contacted Kristin Higgins @ UofA 4/5/21 to discuss requirements for MH grad student internships. Delayed due tpo COVID</i>
Implement a sexual abuse prevention curriculum in HS classrooms.	1. Set a date for staff training prior to the agency calendar being established. 2. Roll-out curriculum and training during Pre-service. 3. Include training opportunity for parents at one Family Learning Party event 4. Include online video for Parent education on EOACS website.	Children's Safety Center	MHM, Teaching Staff	September 2023	<i>Ongoing</i> <i>Purchased Body Safe Books for each Center</i> <i>Online video production in progress</i>
Establish method for promoting parent participation in treatment plans	1. Create policy that outlines expectations of parent participation when need for therapy services is identified or recommended by staff, LEA, and/or therapists. 2. Contact public school special education staff to request transition conference that promotes smooth transition into kindergarten	OGC, LEA, EI, Health Services Advisory Committee	<i>DSC, MHM,</i> FCSM	August 2023	<i>Ongoing. Since onset of Covid, all service providers have experienced staffing shortages.</i>

Long Term Goals

Coordinated approach for children who DNQ under IDEA for services but demonstrate a developmental delay that is likely to interfere with the child's school readiness.	1. Develop a written set of instructions for teachers that detail specific strategies and practices that will be used to ensure that a student's needs are met.	LEA, EI, OGC, DMHC, Coach/Curriculum Fidelity/Inclusion Specialist, BSS, Methodist Health	DSC	2021-2024	<i>In progress.</i>
Increase Mental Health service providers	1. Pursue forming new MH partnerships with existing and new providers.	Chenal Family Therapy, Methodist Behavior Health, <i>Burrell Mental Health</i> , Health Safety Advisory Committee	Program Director, Development Director, MHM	2021-2023	<i>Partnership with Methodist Family Health ongoing</i>