

**2009 APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL AND RECOMMITMENT (ARR) AND
PROGRAM POLICY GUIDELINES (PPGs) CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SESSION ON MARCH 10, 2009**

**Questions and Answers
March 31, 2009**

Question: Can the same System of Care (SOC) process be used for both children with serious emotional disturbance (SED) and children with developmental disabilities (DD)?

Answer: See Volume 1 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers. It can be the same process, but you need to make sure you have the necessary stakeholders for each group. There may be different stakeholders for children with DD and children with SED. There must be a specific focus on each group with necessary stakeholders, **including parents of children with SED and parents of children with DD. Youth are also to be included the planning process.**

Question: How much detail is required for each section of the plan?

Answer: See Volume 1 Frequently Asked Questions and Answers. The PPG is prepared by the CMHSP, but if the CMHSP covers several counties then each county may have their own SOC plan (or pair of counties, whatever makes sense in your community).

Question: Since DD and SED services can be very separate in CMHPs – what is DCH's vision for integrating these services?

Answer: DCH does not have an overall vision for integrating services locally. It is a local vision. If we are talking about access to services and where children are being referred from, DCH would like to ensure that relevant players are involved in the local vision.

Question: Are home-based services and wraparound specified for children with SED in the Medicaid Manual? Is wraparound a promising practice for DD?

Answer: If CMHSP's desire to have a home-based program to serve children with DD, the program must be enrolled by DCH for that target population. Staff providing home-based services to this population must be CMHP and QMRP. If a CMHSP wants to enroll a home-based program for children with DD, contact DCH (Jennifer Stentoumis, stentoumisj@michigan.gov or call 517.335.6258).

Wraparound is referenced in the Mental Health Code for SED, but DCH has supported using the wraparound process for children with DD and their families.

Question: Where are children with both SED and DD included in the PPGs tables?

Answer: You can make that decision locally as to which section to include them. You can include them in one or the other or both of the tables.

Question: What are policy level outcomes of SOC?

Answer: System level outcomes can guide policy change, but there is no policy level outcomes delineated. Policy takes different forms: an interagency agreement, family-driven approach, etc. This can look different in each community.

Question: Are there any planned changes to state level policies?

Answer: If barriers are identified locally, DCH can try to work with other state partners to break down those barriers.

Question: The planning document for SOC includes an outcome on school attendance. Should this outcome be broader?

Answer: If your community wants to include a broader definition you may include it.

Question: In SED and DD tables, do you want a narrative of the plan?

Answer: No, a narrative is not required only a date, leadership and participants.

Question: Is the first activity on the DD table for the PPG completed by participating in today's SOC session?

Answer: Yes. Enter today's date of March 10, 2009.

Question: Can we use block grant dollars to reimburse the SOC for DD coordinator?

Answer: No, the federal mental health block grant is, by statute, targeted for children with SED (includes dually diagnosed). Funding should be service related and is not to provide administrative staff.

Question: Are there good examples or best practice to include families/children in the planning process?

Answer: Wraparound is best practice that brings children and families to the table. Best practice would include identification of what supports families/youth will need to attend planning meetings. Also, consider that families/youth need orientation to the SOC planning process.

Question: Regarding an epidemiological or needs assessment: Could the federal mental health block grant be used for data repository activity to establish community benchmarks?

Answer: Children's mental health block grant funds would not appropriate for this type of needs assessment.

Question: PPG timeline presents a dilemma as it varies from the ARR process/timeline block grant timeline.

Answer: Communities will engage in planning prior to block grant proposal submission and, as part of the requirements for the PPG and ARR, be an ongoing process.

Question: How is the planning moved to implementation? Will DCH assist in helping bring partners to the table?

Answer: DCH has been communicating with system partners at the state level. DCH is going to ask state level partner agencies to communicate information on SOC to local partner agencies.

Question: SOC SED/DD tables last column: "Date completed" -- What goes in there?

Answer: No narrative, just insert the date completed on that specific activity and the identified leadership.

Question: What does "completed" mean?

Answer: The planning process for SOC for both children with DD and for children with SED needs to be completed for the PPGs by 9/30/09. Please insert the date between now and September 30th regarding that activity or if that activity has been completed previously. It is understood that the SOC process is an ongoing process of planning, implementation, evaluation, refinement.

Question: How is the Interagency Agreement for children with DD addressed?.

Answer: An Interagency Agreement would reflect either SOC planning or service provision and needs to be focused on a specific target population.

Question: How do we identify a completed date for SOC planning for children with SED if the process is ongoing?

Answer: Date completed is for initial planning (steps 1-4) is September 30, 2009.

Question: Please provide clarification on Table 2 in the PPG.

Answer: Complete Table 2 (yes, no) and, if yes, the type of assistance that you are requesting from DCH should be noted.

Question: Are there any suggested partners for SOC for children with DD?

Answer: Public Health, Medical Community, ARC, Autism Society, Intermediate School District, local school districts, parks and recreation departments, YMCA, parents of children with DD and youth with DD, child welfare, juvenile justice, Michigan Rehabilitation Services.

Question: Can the SOC planning process include addressing issues of transition?

Answer: Yes.