NAPA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care

PROGRAM SUMMARY

The Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPCFC) is a public health nursing program located in county Child Welfare Service Agencies and Probation Departments to provide public health nurse expertise in meeting the medical, dental, mental and developmental needs of children and youth in foster care.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

The HCPCFC Nurse is responsible for:

- medical and health care case planning, including participation in multi-disciplinary team meetings, and review of health-related issues;
- help foster caregivers to obtain timely comprehensive health assessments, dental examinations and follow up screenings that meet reasonable standards of medical practice;
- expedite referrals for medical, dental, mental health and developmental services;
- coordinate health services for children in out of home placements;
- provide medical education through the interpretation of medical reports and training for foster team members on the special health care needs of children and youth in foster care;
- monitoring and oversight of psychotropic medications;
- participate in the creation and updating of the Health and Education Passport for every child as required by law;
- Serve as health consultant to Child Welfare Staff;
- Send courtesy reminders of upcoming or notices of past due periodic well child and dental exams

Although the child's social worker is ultimately responsible for addressing the child's educational, emotional, and medical needs, the HCPCFC Nurse is one member of a multi-disciplinary team, collaborating with the child's social worker to meet the needs of the child.

DEMOGRAPHICS AND NO. SERVED

The Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care served **203 kids** in FY 17-18

- Of the 203 kids on the HCPCFC caseload (average of 104 cases are active per month).
    - 159 youth served (age 17 and under)
    - 44 individuals age 18 and over served (extended Foster Care – ages 18-24)
- Of the 203 cases, 13.7% of these are jointly served by the HCPCFC Nurse and Juvenile Probation. Average number of days on caseload is 460 days and the median number of days on caseload is 350 days

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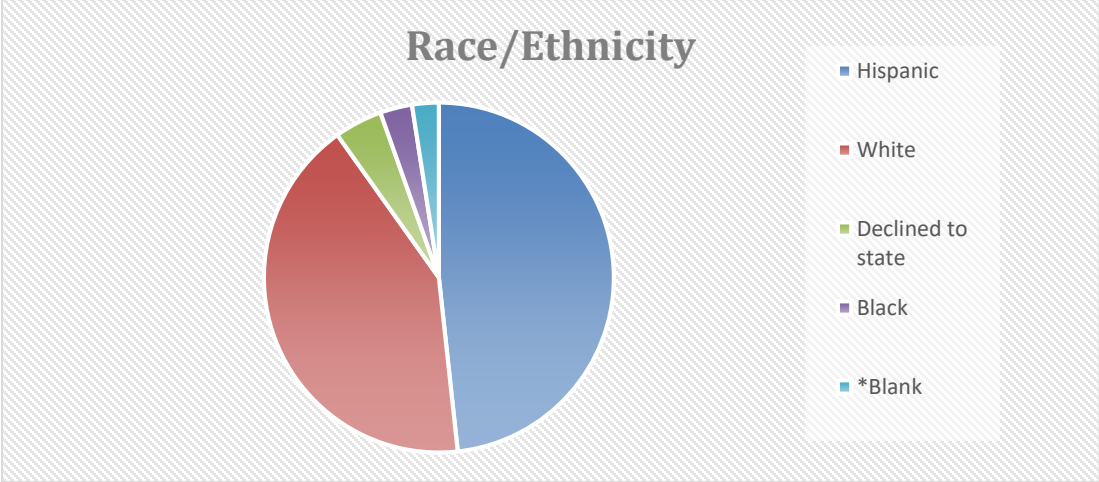

*Specific categories were intentionally left blank to prevent identification.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES

- 90.4% (94/104*) of children (ages 17 and under) in out of home placement received a preventative health exam, which exceeded the current state average of 70.8%
- 77.4% (101/131*) of children (includes youth 18 and over) in out of home placement received a preventative health exam. Services for youth 18 and over is not mandatory and no current state average exists.
- 71.1% (74/104*) of children (ages 17 and under) in out of home placement received a preventative dental exam, which exceeded the current state average of 60.4%
- 61.8% (81/131*) of children (includes youth 18 and over) in out of home placement received a preventative dental exam. Services for youth 18 and over is not mandatory and no current state average exists

Specialty dental services are generally very difficult to access for Denti-Cal recipients. It is an on-going goal to ensure appropriate access to dental services for all children in foster care.

*No. based on average no. of kids served on a monthly basis.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The HCPCFC annual budget for FY17-18 was $174,087. California Department of Health Care Services provides program oversight. The Public Health Division provides in-kind program supervision and support. Funding currently only covers 1FTE Public Health Nurse as well as other indirect program expenses.

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The State Budget Act of 1999 appropriated State General Funds to the California Department of Social Services (CDSS) for the purpose increasing the use of PHNs in meeting the health care needs of children in foster care.

Position	FTE
Administrative Manager	0 FTE
Nursing Supervisor	0 FTE
HCPCFC Nurse	1 FTE
Medical Secretary	0 FTE

The enabling legislation for the HCPCFC is Assembly Bill 1111. This legislation defined the components of the program and added to the Welfare and Institutions Code, Section 16501.3 (a) through (e).

GOALS FOR UPCOMING FY:

- Continue to work with local providers to reduce barriers to access for dental services and increase education to foster parents about the importance of preventative dental care
- Continue collaboration with Juvenile Probation staff to reduce barriers to access and improve health outcomes for youth
- Participation in the statewide development of a psychotropic medication performance measure focused monitoring of medication for compliance, safety and oversight.
- Identification of best practices around psychotropic medication procedures
- Streamline HCPCFC services by providing training to new Child Welfare staff during onboarding orientation
- Outreach and engage youth over 18 to ensure they are aware of health-related services available to them (HCPCFC services are not mandatory for youth over 18)

A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service

FOR PROGRAM INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL:

PHONE: (707) 259–8723 OR VISIT: https://www.countyofnapa.org/427/Health-Care-Program-for-Children-in-Fost