

BIG SANDY AREA HEAD START PROGRAM
CHILD MENTAL HEALTH

Goal Statement – Children will receive mental health services.

Child Mental Health

Objective 1: To work collaboratively with parents concerning children's behavior and mental health issues, to include;

1. Soliciting parental information, observations and concerns about their child's mental health during intake/enrollment, parent-teacher conferences and home visits.
2. Staff will share information regarding their observations with parents during home visits, parent-teacher conferences and when the child displays a typical behavior.
3. Through meetings, workshops, individual conferences, Mental Health staff will provide parents with information concerning appropriate responses to their child's behavior.
4. During group meetings, trainings, individual conferences, Mental Health staff discuss and provide parents with information on how to Strengthen nurturing, supportive environments and relationships.
5. Parents will be helped to better understand mental health issues through literature, individual conferences and group training, as well as referrals for parenting classes, or mental health counseling, according to the specific needs of each family.
6. Staff will support parents' participation in any needed mental health interventions.

Objective 2: Big Sandy Area Head Start program and delegate agencies will secure the services of mental health professionals on a schedule of sufficient frequency to enable a timely and effective identification and intervention in family and staff concerns about a child's mental health.

1. The grantee will secure the services of qualified mental health professional through written contracts and agreements with community mental health service providers.
2. Additional services may be secured by delegate agencies through contract and agreements with local Board of Education personnel.

3. Mental health services staff will coordinate mental health services under the guidance of the mental health professional.

Objective 3: Mental Health program services will include a regular schedule of on-site mental health consultation involving the mental health professional, program staff and parents.

1. Mental health services will design and implement program practices responsive to the identified behavioral and mental health concerns of individual children or groups of children.
2. Mental health services will promote children's mental wellness by providing group and individual staff and parent education on mental health issues.
3. The mental health services program will assist in providing special help for children with a typical behavior.
4. Big Sandy Area Head Start and delegate agencies will utilize community mental health resources as needed.