

Communication - Mental Health

Multiple modes of communication are used to inform staff, parents, and community members and organizations of the role of mental health in promoting social competence in Early Head Start/Head Start and to determine the mental health needs of our staff, families and children.

Community

- Representatives from both public sector and private sector mental health providers are members of the Health Advisory Committee.
- We meet with mental health providers with whom we have interagency agreements yearly to clarify the roles that UMCHS and their mental health professionals will play in identifying mental health needs of both the children and families we serve.
- Referrals, both written and verbal, are made for families and children to mental health professionals in the community.

Staff and Parents.

- Parents are informed about mental health at the time of recruitment and provided a brochure on the role of mental health within the program at either the time of enrollment or at an early home visit.
- Mental health professionals provide training at parent center days on the role of mental health in developing and strengthening social competence in children and the role of mental health in Early Head Start/Head Start.
- Staff are provided consultation/technical assistance on ways to enhance mental health/social competence in the classroom following mental health observations in the classroom.
- Staff are provided consultation/technical assistance on ways they can assist children with challenging behaviors following mental health observations in the classroom.
- Mental health professionals meet with families upon request to provide them with information and consultation around mental health concerns of their children or family members.
- Mental health professionals provide information to staff upon request on specific mental health concerns for themselves or their family.