

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT of CHILDREN (continued)

Health's Early Childhood Supports and Services program (which provides a coordinated system of screening, evaluation and referral services and treatment), the mental health component of the Nurse Family Partnership program, and specialized infant mental health programs for children in foster care

- expand the number of mental health clinicians trained to address early childhood mental health issues
- provide mental health consultation to early childhood programs to address challenging behaviors
- embed training on emotional, behavioral and social development of children and relationship-based practices into all programs serving children birth through age 5 with special emphasis on the birth to age 3 population
- ensure that foster and adoptive parents have training on emotional, behavioral, and social development for children
- expand reimbursable Medicaid services to include relationship-based mental health treatment and services including psychotherapy to address the infant-parent relationship and attachment; individual and/or group therapy for caregivers/children; in-home treatment intervention and treatment for children who have been abused/neglected or have witnessed violence
- include pregnant and post-partum women in the target populations for the Louisiana Office of Mental Health's Early Childhood Supports and Services program
- develop and provide training for Part C-Early Steps' (Louisiana's Early Intervention System under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act for children from birth to 3-years-old who have developmental delays) to ensure appropriate screening for social-emotional impairment, delays and challenging behaviors and how to make referrals for appropriate services
- provide infant mental health services in Part C-Early Steps
- encourage programs, professionals, and agencies who diagnose mental health conditions to adopt the Research Diagnostic Criteria – Preschool Age (RDC-PA) for defining the need for mental health services for children under age 5
- increase specialized interventions to address the potential negative impact on social-emotional development resulting from child abuse or neglect, severe maternal depression, parental substance abuse or domestic violence

According to the 2007 Louisiana Task Force on Foster Care, only 7-14% of children with mental health disorders in Louisiana are receiving needed services

For additional information please go to www.lapartnership.org.