Child Health & Education Tracking

A Screening and Assessment Program

The Child Health and Education Tracking (CHET) Program screens all children within the **first 30 days of initial placement** out of the home. The screening looks at a child's total well-being that includes their physical health, developmental, education, emotional/behavioral and connections to family and community. The screening process helps identify support services based on the child's needs.

During the first month of a child's placement, a CHET Screening Specialist contacts the adults who know the child best. This includes birth parents, foster parents, relatives, early childhood caregivers, teachers, and doctors. Through these contacts, Screening Specialists gather information to understand more about the child and their needs.

Social Worker's Role

Once a child is in the care and custody of the Department, social workers will work collaboratively with the caregiver to share and obtain well-being information until the child returns home. Social worker's are responsible for monitoring the overall well-being needs of children and will work side-by-side with the caregiver to identify the child's daily and on-going needs. Social workers use the CHET Screening Report and other information to develop a case plan. An effective case plan addresses each child's needs to make sure these children have the best outcomes.

Caregiver's Role

Caregivers help social workers in making sure the child's well-being needs are met. This may include:

- Coordinating with the CHET Screening Specialist for a home visit.
    - CHET Screeners are required to see the child face-to-face within 30 days to complete screenings and gather valuable information about the child's well-being status.

- Maintaining the child's current relationship with their health and mental health providers.
    - Contact the child's social worker to identify the child's current providers.

- Take the child to an ESPDT examination within the first 30 days of their initial out-of-home placement.

- Take the child to a dental examination within the first 30 days of initial out-of-home placement.

- Coordinate with the child's social worker to access initial and on-going mental health services when recommended by the Department, medical, or mental health provider.

- When a developmental concern is identified (for children birth-three years old), caregivers must coordinate with the child's social worker to access developmental services such as Early Support for Infants and Toddlers.

- Coordinate with the social worker to identify and meet the child's education needs which may include:
    o Referring preschool-aged child to their local Early Learning Program (e.g., HeadStart or Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP)). Foster children are a priority population for these programs.
    o When possible, help school-aged children stay in the same school district/school prior to entering care.
    o When a child changes schools, enroll them within three days.
    o Check with the social worker and child's school to see if the child is currently receiving special education services (Individual Education Plan or 504 Behavioral Plan).

Screening Report

A CHET Screening Report is completed based on the information gathered during the screening process. The CHET Screening Specialist will mail a copy of the report to the child's current caregiver and assigned social worker. In addition, the child's well-being status is reviewed at the Shared Planning Meeting. At this Shared Planning Meeting the child's case plan is developed, which is held within 60 days of the child's initial placement. All current caregivers are invited to each child's Shared Planning Meeting.

Resources

For questions about the child's case, contact the child's social worker.

If you need help finding a Medicaid provider, you can contact:
- Foster Care Medicaid Team at 1-800-562-3022,
- Fostering Well-Being Care Coordination Unit at 1-800-422-3263, or
- Check on line at: http://maanet.dshs.wa.gov/P1FindAProvider/Default.aspx