

County of Santa Clara

Office of the County Executive

County Government Center, East Wing
70 West Hedding Street
San Jose, California 95110
(408) 299-5105



DATE: April 28, 2023

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors
Jeffrey V. Smith, County Executive

FROM: Rene G. Santiago, Deputy County Executive/Director, SCVHHS

DS
RS

SUBJECT: Report on Overview of Health Screenings for Children

During the Children, Seniors, and Family Committee (CSFC) Meeting on February 21, 2023 (Item No. 4), Supervisor Chavez requested that Administration provide an off-agenda memo relating to the Universal Developmental Screening Initiative (UDSI) for health screenings across the continuum for children in Santa Clara County (County).

Physical, behavioral, and well-child screenings are part of the comprehensive work to support early identification and prevention across County departments, schools, and in collaboration with community-based non-profit organizations such as FIRST 5 and Healthier Kids Foundation. Universal screenings are broadly defined as standard and evidence-based physical, behavioral, or developmental screenings performed to all those who are served in a specific location. For children, screenings are typically done in places such as primary care provider offices, schools, and may be offered by community-based organizations. To be considered universal, it is fundamental that screening services are available to all patients receiving care in that location. Best results are found when screenings are offered and performed where the children are, versus requiring a special trip or destination for the screening.

MANAGED CARE PLAN (MCP) AND HEALTH PLAN REQUIREMENTS FOR SCREENING CHILDREN

Children who have coverage and access to a doctor will receive routine well-child visits with their provider on a routine basis where they will have standard of care screenings or screenings that are required by payors. Medi-Cal requires that

children who receive Medi-Cal benefits receive standard California Child Health and Disability Prevention (CHDP) screenings, which include complete health assessments for the early detection and prevention of disease and disabilities for low-income children and youth. A health assessment consists of a health history, physical examination, developmental assessment, nutritional assessment, dental assessment, vision and hearing tests, a tuberculin test, laboratory tests, immunizations, health education/anticipatory guidance, and referral for any necessary diagnosis and treatment.

The CHDP program oversees the screening and follow-up components of the federally mandated Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) program for Medi-Cal eligible children and youth. The EPSDT benefit provides comprehensive health coverage for all children under age 21 who are enrolled in Medicaid. EPSDT is key to ensuring that children and adolescents receive appropriate preventive, dental, mental health, developmental, and specialty services. Created in 1967 and required by the federal government in every state with Medicaid, EPSDT finances a wide array of medically necessary services. Effective July 1, 2024, the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) will transition the CHDP Program under Senate Bill (SB) 184. Transitioning the CHDP Program aligns with the Department's goal under CalAIM to reduce administrative complexities, enhance coordination of care and whole person care approach, and increase standardization of care across Medi-Cal by consolidating care responsibilities for children/youth under the Medi-Cal managed care plans¹. DHCS' proposal to sunset CHDP programs which will not affect EPSDT services as they are currently required to be covered in both the Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service (FFS) and managed care delivery systems.

In addition to the legal mandates on Medicaid programs, additional pay-for-performance measures are applied and monitored by the Managed Care Plans (MCPs) and other insurers to ensure outcomes are met. MCPs and the DHCS require performance be reported on a variety of measure including screening of children and families through programs such as Quality Incentive Program (QIP) and Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS).

PRIMARY CARE PROVIDER

To meet the standards set by federal and state mandates, County-operated primary care locations must provide comprehensive screening for all children during well-

¹ Department of Health Care Services, <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/>

child visits. Currently, through comprehensive screening practices, Santa Clara Valley Healthcare (SCVH) meets or exceeds screening expectations for well-child visits for children seen at primary care sites in their clinics. Table 1 shows the screenings done at pediatric primary care sites. Other physical screenings that are part of the visits include vision, oral health, hearing, immunizations, and laboratory testing as part of the routine visit type.

Table 1. Screenings Performed at Pediatric Primary Care Sites

Screening	Visit	Assessment Timeline
ASQ Screener	Well-Child Visit	9, 18, 24, 30, and 36 months
Well-child Questionnaire (QNR)	Milestone check-in visits	2, 4, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, 24, 30, and 36 months
Modified Checklist for Autism and Toddlers (MCHAT)	Milestone check-in visits	18 and 24 months, and as needed
SHA/PHQ 2/9	Family/caregiver staying healthy assessment and depression screening	Bi-annually during first year, six months apart. Annually thereafter.
Family Needs Assessment	Staying Healthy Family Assessment	Once, annually

HealthySteps

Currently, Valley Health Center (VHC) Tully and Tully Primary Care Behavioral Health (PCBH) continue to pilot the HealthySteps program by offering interdisciplinary medical/behavioral well-child visits one half day per week for children ages 0-3 years and builds on current primary care screening practices through interdisciplinary medical/behavioral well-child visits. By partnering with a behavioral health provider, patients and families have increased opportunities for the earliest possible detection of social, emotional, and developmental concerns and subsequent initiation of interventions that prevent developmental delays and minimize social and emotional challenges.

The aim of the UDSI (LF #114692) has been successful by identifying a model to enhance and build on the current programs and expand them into the community sites that support the populations across the county. Updates are quarterly to CSFC.

Developmental Behavioral Pediatric (DBP) Services

Developmental Behavioral Pediatric (DBP) services, which were successfully transitioned into Primary Care at the VHCs San Jose, Downtown, and Gilroy in 2021, have expanded. The new Pediatric Developmental Specialty Center (PDSC) successfully opened on January 4, 2023, at the Youth Center for Evaluation and Advocacy (YCEA) at 455 O'Connor Drive in San Jose (LF # 115316). The DBP diagnostic and follow-up program provides targeted developmental and behavioral health assessments and ongoing treatment and care coordination for children who experience developmental and behavioral challenges. The program uses a child/family-centered approach inclusive of the parent/caregiver, and collaborates with patients' health plans, primary care providers, behavioral health providers, school districts, and community-based organizations. In addition to the new location at the PDSC, the other DBP Program locations at VHCs San Jose, Downtown and Gilroy remain operational, ensuring that families have multiple access points throughout the County for these valuable services. All resources offered at the PDSC are also made available to DBP patients of the other locations to ensure equity across the program.

PHYSICAL SCREENINGS BEYOND THE PRIMARY CARE SITES

To support a broad engagement of the populations that may not have access to routine primary care or well child visits, physical screenings, including vision, hearing, oral, and scoliosis, may be done at school sites and are required by some legal statutes to be offered per California Education Code².

The County, through the Public Health Department (PHD), Behavioral Health Services Department (BHSD), Social Services Agency (SSA), and County Executive's Office (CEO), has partnered with the Healthier Kids Foundation since 2019, the Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with Healthier Kids Foundation relating to providing dental, vision, and hearing screenings, parenting classes, and insurance referral services. In Fiscal Year 2022-2023, the Healthier Kids Foundation contract budget and management of the program was transferred to PHD by the County of Santa Clara Health System (CSCHS). The contract budget and scope for the contract with Healthier Kids Foundation will extend to Fiscal Year 2023-2024.

Healthier Kids Foundation has established MOUs with targeted school districts to provide the screening services under this agreement. Healthier Kids Foundation

² California Health Services & School Nursing, <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/>

screens over 60,000 children a year and provides care coordination for children with urgent needs to connect them to care. Care coordination and follow-up is conducted by parent advocates who specialize in linking families to care.

The PHD provides Healthier Kids Foundation with data to inform their outreach thus supporting Healthier Kids Foundation in reaching the most vulnerable communities. The PHD's Local Oral Health Program also collaborates with the Healthier Kids Foundation by providing technical assistance and support with dental educational materials utilized by Healthier Kids Foundation in community classes and care coordination.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SCREENINGS

The BHSD's Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) mid-year Fiscal Year 2023 (FY 2023) plan includes integrating behavioral health screenings in an existing behavioral health program, Prevention Early Intervention Strengthening Families (PEI). The PEI program is provided by County Contracted Providers (CCPs) in school districts identified as high-risk based on risk indicators such as poverty, substance abuse, juvenile arrests, mental health utilization, school dropouts, teen mothers, low test scores, and low birth weight. In FY 2023, the PEI program expanded services to include behavioral health screenings.

CCPs and School Linked Services (SLS) Coordinators at Santa Clara County School Districts will coordinate and conduct behavioral health screenings for third grade students in each third-grade classroom. The validated screening tool to be administered is a shortened version of the Revised Children's Anxiety and Depression Scale (RCADS), for students in grades 3 and up. The RCADS is a standardized, reliable, and validated screening tool available in multiple languages. School administration, staff, and parents will be presented information regarding mental health awareness and the screening processes as well as information on services related to social emotional groups, skills groups, parenting workshops, and therapy. In addition, resources such as community resources will be available to parents and students following the screening. Behavioral health screenings will be included within the context of social-emotional curriculum, SkillStreaming, delivered to the classroom by the assigned PEI CCP at the school site.

SUMMARY

Universal screening and early prevention are a fundamental part of the CSCHS to identify, refer, diagnose, and treat a broad range of illnesses and conditions that

affect children and families. Legal and procedural guides are in place and services are available in several county-operated and supported locations. Although the screening is comprehensive, there are ongoing opportunities to ensure all eligible children and families benefit from early identification and screening for physical, developmental, and behavioral health as well as from the emerging evidence and best practices. CSCHS staff will continue to collaborate and strategize on efficient and comprehensive screening for the youth of Santa Clara County.

LINKS:

- References: BHSD Off-Agenda Memo- Health Screenings 04/01/2022
- References: 114697
- References: 114692
- References: 115316

cc: Chief Board Aides
Greta S. Hansen, Chief Operating Officer
James R. Williams, County Counsel
Tiffany Lennear, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
Mary Ann Barrous, Agenda Review Administrator
Jason McCluskey, Budget and Public Policy Analyst
Shawn Whiteman, Program Manager II