

**HIGHLAND RIM ECONOMIC CORPORATION,
HEAD START PROGRAM
WRITTEN PLANS
PROGRAM YEAR 2009-2010
MENTAL HEALTH**

OBJECTIVE #1: To work collaboratively with parents and staff regarding children's behavior.

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROACH

Following Performance Standards 1304.24 (a)(1)(ii)(iii)

Head Start will work with parents by soliciting information, observations and concerns about their child's mental health. Head Start staff will share their observations of the child with the parents by discussing and anticipating the child's behavior and development.

Staff can advise parents on child development and growth by providing information on typical development of young children as individuals, on recognizing and understanding behavior in stressful situations, and on ways to help children deal with separation and attachment issues.

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OBJECTIVE #1: To work collaboratively with parents and staff regarding children's behavior.

TASKS	BEGINNING DATE	COMPLETION DATE	STAFF RESPONSIBLE
Work with parents by sharing information, observations and concerns.	July	June	Health/Disability Manager Education Staff FSW Mental Health Consultant Education Manager
Advise parents on child's development.	July	June	Health/Disability Manager Education Staff FSW Education Manager

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OBJECTIVE #2: To work with parents to identify appropriate responses to their child's behavior, and to discuss how to strengthen nurturing, supportive environments and relationships in the home and at Head Start.

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROACH

Following Performance Standard 1304.24 (a)(1)(iii),(iv)

Head Start staff will respond to parent questions regarding response to a child's behavior, and will model appropriate alternative approaches and techniques. Staff will provide a supportive environment at Head Start while helping parents develop the nurturing, supportive environments at home. Positive social behavior among children will be fostered through modeling, coaching, and encouraging, rather than through lecturing, criticism, and punishment.

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OBJECTIVE #2: To work with parents to identify appropriate responses to their child's behavior, and to discuss how to strengthen nurturing, supportive environments and relationships in the home and at Head Start.

TASKS	BEGINNING DATE	COMPLETION DATE	STAFF RESPONSIBLE
Staff will model appropriate responses to behavior.	July	June	Education Staff Health/Disability Manager Education Manager
Staff will provide a supportive environment at Head Start.	July	June	Education Staff Health/Disability Manager Education Manager
Staff will assist parents in developing a supportive environment at home.	July	June	Education Staff Health/Disability Manager Education Manager
Staff will model positive social behavior for children.	July	June	Education Staff Education Manager

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OBJECTIVE #3: To help parents better understand mental health issues, and support parents' participation in any needed mental health interventions.

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROACH

Following Performance Standard 1304.24(a)(1)(v)(vi)

Head Start will help parents better understand mental health issues by providing opportunities for parents to learn about and participate in mental wellness activities, by providing access to mental health professionals, by working with parents to develop support groups, and by helping parents access community mental health resources.

Head Start will provide information to parents regarding mental health. At one of the first Parent Committee meetings of the program year, the mental health consultant will explain the function of the consultant and available services. Parents and guardians will be involved in developing and evaluating the mental health program through participation in the Health Advisory Committee.

Training and group meetings will be held to inform parents/guardians of the goals of the Mental Health Objective and Operating Plan, positive discipline techniques and other topics relevant to mental health issues.

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OBJECTIVE #3: To help parents better understand mental health issues, and support parents' participation in any needed mental health interventions.

TASKS	BEGINNING DATE	COMPLETION DATE	STAFF RESPONSIBLE
Head Start will provide parents opportunities to learn about mental health services and activities.	July	June	Health/Disability Manager Education Staff
Head Start will assist parents in accessing mental health professionals and resources.	July	June	Health/Disability Manager Mental Health Consultant
Parents will be able to be involved in evaluation and development of the Mental Health Objective and Operating Plan by participating in the Health Advisory Committee.	October, February, April	June	Health/Disability Manager
Training and information meetings will be held to educate the parents on what services are available through Head Start.	July	June	Health/Disability Manager Mental Health Consultant Family Service Manager

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OBJECTIVE #4: To secure the services of a mental health professional as a consultant to provide mental health services to Head Start staff, children and parents.

JUSTIFICATION AND APPROACH

Following Performance Standard 1304.24(a)(2)

Head Start will ensure mental health services for Head Start children, parents/guardians, and staff by contracting with a mental health professional. The mental health professional may be certified in psychiatry, psychology, psychiatric nursing, marriage and family therapy, clinical social work, behavioral and developmental pediatrics, mental health counseling, and other disciplines as is appropriate. The mental health consultant will provide the following services to Head Start:

The consultant will, with parent/guardian permission, observe a child who is referred for mental health or behavior issues. Observations will include child behavior, classroom procedures, management, atmosphere, physical layout, and teacher/student interaction. Written reports will be filed with the Health and Disability Manager. The HDM will ensure these reports are copied and submitted to the Education Manager to ensure lesson plans support the necessary services. The consultant will make recommendations to classroom teaching staff and the Health and Disability Manager regarding activities to promote mental wellness in the classroom. The consultant may also refer a child or family for additional mental health services from an appropriate mental health provider or service.

The consultant will provide training to Head Start staff and parents to address mental health issues as is necessary.

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OBJECTIVE #4: To secure the services of a mental health professional as a consultant to provide mental health services to Head Start staff, children and parents.

TASKS	BEGINNING DATE	COMPLETION DATE	STAFF RESPONSIBLE
Head Start will secure a written contractual agreement with a qualified mental health consultant.	June	July	Health/Disability Manager Director
Children with behavior or mental health concerns will be referred to the Mental Health Consultant with parental permission.	July	June	Education Staff Health/Disability Manager
The Mental Health Consultant will observe referred children for behavior or mental health concerns.	July	June	Mental Health Consultant Health/Disability Manager
The Mental Health Consultant will provide training for Head Start staff and parents.	July	November	Mental Health Consultant Health/Disability Manager