



# Fostering Care: An Introduction to the Complex Healthcare Needs of Children in Foster Care

Dr. Rebecca Hook, Director of Medical Services  
DCFS| Baton Rouge, LA

Join the Q&A and  
answer MOC questions  
at

**slido.com**


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**#CENLApotpourri**





# Speaker Disclosure

I have no relevant financial relationships with manufacturers of any commercial products and/or providers of commercial services discussed in this CME activity.



# Objectives


- At the conclusion of this activity, learners will be able to:
  - Recognize the unique experiences impacting the overall health of children in foster care.
  - Identify risk factors and barriers to care
  - Advocate for the unique needs of children in foster care.
  - Educate caregivers and promote a healthy environment.

Join the Q&A and answer MOC part 2 questions at [slido.com](https://www.slido.com). Log in with the code #CENLApotpourri





Question slide for question #1



# Child Abuse in the United States

- 585,000 victims in 2021<sup>1</sup>
  - Neglect 75%
  - Physical abuse 16%
  - Sexual abuse 10%
  - Emotional abuse 6%
  - Medical Neglect 2%
- 2020-2021 8/1000 kids were confirmed victims of maltreatment
- Younger children are at greater risk





# Foster Care in Louisiana

- Approximately 4000 children in foster care
- Ages: birth-18 years
- Extended foster care up to 21 years of age
  - Voluntary program
    - Must meet enrollment criteria
    - Must participate in LifeSet program



# Foster Care in Louisiana

- Placement types (2015-2021)<sup>2</sup>
  - Non-relative foster family
    - 50%
  - Relative foster family
    - 34%
  - Group home or institution
    - 8%
  - Pre-adoptive home
    - 3.5%
  - Trial home visit
    - 2.7%
  - Runaway
    - 0.5%
  - Supervised independent living
    - 0.5%

# Foster Care Exit

Location	ExitReason	Data Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Louisiana	Adoption	Number	663	731	771	910	894	756	612
		Percent	18%	20%	23%	27%	28%	29%	25%
	Death Of Child	Number	6	10	4	6	3	4	4
		Percent	<.5%	<.5%	<.5%	<.5%	<.5%	<.5%	<.5%
	Emancipation	Number	166	145	179	150	152	152	145
		Percent	4%	4%	5%	5%	5%	6%	6%
	Guardianship	Number	258	244	306	297	372	366	392
		Percent	7%	7%	9%	9%	12%	14%	16%
	Living With Other Relatives	Number	481	503	437	436	321	243	273
		Percent	13%	14%	13%	13%	10%	9%	11%
	Reunified With Parent Or Primary Caretaker	Number	2,104	1,974	1,619	1,490	1,439	1,088	1,018
		Percent	57%	53%	48%	45%	45%	41%	41%
	Runaway	Number	7	8	6	5	3	8	4
		Percent	<.5%	<.5%	<.5%	<.5%	<.5%	<.5%	<.5%
Transfer To Another Agency	Number	34	27	20	23	26	21	13	
	Percent	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	



## DCFS By The Numbers

*For February 2024*

### SNAP (FOOD STAMPS)

421,305

*Households*

### CHILD SUPPORT

\$30,951,734

*Collected*

### CHILD ABUSE CASES

1,722

*Investigations*

### FOSTER CHILDREN

4,365

*Served*

# Special Health Care Needs

- What leads to special healthcare concerns?
  - Insufficient prenatal care
  - Prematurity
  - In utero toxin exposures
  - Chronic abuse/neglect
- More likely than peers to have:<sup>3</sup>
  - Chronic illness
  - Mental health concerns
  - Developmental challenges

# Medical care guidelines and policies

- Initial exam
  - Ideally within 7 days
- Comprehensive exam
  - 30 days
- Dental exam
  - 60 days
  - DCFS cannot provide cosmetic orthodontic services

# Initial Medical Screening


- Health conditions requiring prompt medical attention
  - Acute illness
  - Acute behavioral health needs
  - Chronic disease
  - Signs of abuse/neglect
- Assist with placement decisions
- Referrals

# Routine Care


- At a minimum should follow the AAP guidelines
- Additional foster care recommendations have been established<sup>4</sup>
  - 0-6 month
    - Monthly
  - 6 months-12 months
    - Every 2 months
  - 1-2 years
    - Every 3 months
  - 2 and above
    - Every 6 months




# Trauma-Informed Care

- Three key elements
    - Realize prevalence of trauma
    - Recognize how trauma affects individuals
    - Responding by putting knowledge into practice
  - Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)
  - Attachment disorders
- 





# Managed Care Organizations

- Eligible for Medicaid enrollment
    - Preferred providers
      - Louisiana Healthcare Connections
      - Aetna Better Health of Louisiana
      - Healthy Blue
    - Additional providers
      - United Healthcare Community Plan
      - AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana, Inc.
      - Humana Healthy Horizons in Louisiana
- 

# Patient Scenario #1

- 6 year old female presents to the ER for evaluation after falling off of the monkey bars. She has right forearm pain and swelling. The child is in foster care custody.
  - Does the child's foster care involvement present any obstacles or barriers to care?
    - If so what issues could be related to foster care placement?



# Medical Consent

- DCFS consent
  - Routine medical care
  - Life saving measures
    - When a parent cannot be reached
- Biologic parent consent
  - Surgical procedures
  - Procedures requiring sedation
    - Fracture reductions
    - Dental procedures
  - Decisions related to withdrawal of care


# Medical Consent

- Extenuating circumstances
  - Cannot locate parent
  - Parent's parental rights have been terminated
  - Parent does not have capacity to consent

DCFS will petition the court to consent for procedures/surgeries. If the consent cannot be obtained DCFS may act in best interest of child



# Medical Consent

- Implications
    - Non-emergent procedures
    - Urgent conditions
    - Truly informed consent is of great importance!
- 



# Question 2



# Psychotropic Medication Monitoring

**Department of Children & Family Services**  
Building a Stronger Louisiana

**Recommendation and Authorization for Psychotropic Medication for Children in Foster Care**

Date of appointment: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section A – Psychotropic medication recommendation: (to be completed by licensed medical professional and reviewed with parents)**

**Identifying information:**

Child's name:	Child's TIPS Number
Prescribing health care provider:	Provider telephone number:

**Clinical information: (to be completed by licensed medical professional)**  
Concurrent medical diagnoses, prescriptions and drug allergies:

All mental health diagnoses:

**All current psychotropic medication:**

Medication/dosage/administration schedule	Medication/dosage/administration schedule	Medication/dosage/administration schedule

Discontinued psychotropic medication:

**New medications and recommendations:**

Name of medication:	Dosage/route/frequency of administration:
Target symptoms for treatment:	Potential side effects or drug interactions with other medicines:
Tests/procedures/labwork required before/during medication regimen:	Results of alternative treatments:
Alternative treatments attempted:	
Potential side effects reviewed with child: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Potential side effects reviewed with foster caretaker: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Foster caretaker(s) name: _____ Date Reviewed: _____

Name of medication: \_\_\_\_\_ Dosage/route/frequency of administration: \_\_\_\_\_

Target symptoms for treatment: \_\_\_\_\_ Potential side effects or drug interactions with other medicines: \_\_\_\_\_

Tests/procedures/labwork required before/during medication regimen: \_\_\_\_\_ Results of alternative treatments: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternative treatments attempted: \_\_\_\_\_

Potential side effects reviewed with child:  Yes  No  
Foster caretaker(s) name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date Reviewed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: (Prescribing licensed medical professional) \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Section B – Notification: (to be completed by caseworker)**

Parent(s) were notified of recommended psychotropic medication(s), recommended dosage and frequency of administration, child symptoms targeted for treatment with the medication, and potential side effects:  Yes  No

Date Notified: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent(s) Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**Section C – Child or young adult mental health assessment and placement information: (to be completed by caseworker)**

**Required - A mental health assessment (BH-1) must be completed before any new psychotropic medication or any antipsychotic medication is prescribed.**

Date of most recent mental health assessment/update: \_\_\_\_\_

**Urgent medical need for currently recommended psychotropic medication:**

Date urgent need episode began: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe urgent medical need: (include information on any treatment facility or licensed health care professional providing care): \_\_\_\_\_

**Placement setting:**

Placement:  Relative/Family Friend  Foster Family  Residential  
 Hospital / Psychiatric or Medical  Other \_\_\_\_\_ (specify)

**Section D – Administration of psychotropic medications: (to be completed by parent, legal guardian or legal custodian)**

By signing below, I acknowledge authorization for the administration of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of medication(s)) has been provided by:

Parental/Legal Guardian Consent  
 Court Ordered treatment  
 Legal Custodian Consent (when parents rights have been terminated/and when unable to identify or locate parents)

for \_\_\_\_\_ (Child's Name) to receive the medications listed above, as recommended by his/her licensed health care provider. Re-authorization due in six months, on or by \_\_\_\_\_ (specify date).

*Note: As soon as the parent(s) are identified and/or located, authorization should immediately be obtained.*

**OR**

By signing below, I deny authorization for \_\_\_\_\_ (child's name) to receive the medications as recommended by his/her health care provider. Reason consent denied: (if consent is denied, reason must be provided below.) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of child's parent(s), legal guardian, or legal custodian (attach court order if court authorized) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

Print name of child's DCFS Caseworker:	DCFS Caseworker email:
DCFS Caseworker office address:	DCFS Caseworker phone number:

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# Regional Resource Guide

- OPH HOME
- ABOUT US
- PROGRAMS
- COMMISSION FOR THE DEAF
- PUBLICATIONS & REPORTS
- DATA
- ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

CSHS Home > For Families & Caregivers > Regional Resource Guides

## Regional Resource Guides

Navigating services for a child with special healthcare needs can be overwhelming. To help, we created local resource guides with recommended pediatric/adolescent services and programs available to children and youth with special healthcare needs. Each of the 9 guides contain contact information, eligibility requirements, and a brief description of the services offered by each organization. Use the map below to view the regional resource guide for your location.



The map shows Louisiana divided into parishes, color-coded into nine regions: 1. North (orange): Union, Morehouse, West Feliciana, East Feliciana, St. Helena, Washington. 2. Northeast (dark blue): St. Landry, Iberville, Ascension, St. John, St. James, St. Charles, Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard. 3. East (light blue): Tangipahoa, St. Tammany, Livingston, St. Martin, Iberia, Vermilion, Terrebonne, St. Mary. 4. South (green): Winn, Grant, La Salle, Catahoula, Concordia, Avoyelles. 5. West (dark blue): Bossier, Webster, Claiborne, Bienville, Jackson, Lincoln, Ouachita, Richland, Madison, De Soto, Red River, Caddo, Sabine, Nicotiana, Winn, Grant, La Salle, Catahoula, Concordia, Avoyelles. 6. Southwest (brown): Beauregard, Allen, Evangeline, St. Landry, Iberville, Ascension, St. John, St. James, St. Charles, Jefferson, Orleans, St. Bernard. 7. South-Central (blue): Calcasieu, Jefferson Davis, Acadia, Lake Charles, Iberia, Vermilion, Terrebonne, St. Mary. 8. Central (green): Winn, Grant, La Salle, Catahoula, Concordia, Avoyelles. 9. East-Central (orange): Union, Morehouse, West Feliciana, East Feliciana, St. Helena, Washington.

# Regional Resource Guide

**Children's Special Health Services**  
**Regional Resource Guide: Region 2**  
 Ascension - East & West Baton Rouge - East & West Feliciana – Iberville - Pointe Coupee

PHYSICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS & INSURANCE ACCESS			
Organization	Services	Eligibility	Contact
Dental Services	Dental Provider Locator	Medicaid member	800-494-6262 <a href="http://mcnaa.net">mcnaa.net</a>
Medicaid	Medicaid Insurance Information	Financial	855-229-6848
Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO)	Louisiana Medicaid MCO Plans, service approvals, prior authorizations, help with access to health providers, complaints	Aetna Healthy Blue AmeriHealth Caritas LA Healthcare Connect United Healthcare Humana	855-242-0802 844-521-6941 888-756-0004 866-595-8133 866-675-1607 855-229-6848
Medical Transport	Non-emergency medical transportation to/from medical appointments. Has to be scheduled 2 days before appointment	Medicaid – Financial Aetna Healthy Blue AmeriHealth Caritas LA Healthcare Connect United Healthcare Humana	855-325-7626 877-917-4150 866-430-1101 888-913-0364 855-369-3723 866-726-1472 844-613-1638
Personal Care Services	In-home Medicaid PCS	Financial/medical	877-455-9955
Capital Area Human Services District	Mental health/addiction treatment, developmental disabilities services	Call for eligibility screen	Child: 225-922-0445 Adult: 225-925-1906 Crisis line: 225-256-6604 <a href="http://Cahsd.org">Cahsd.org</a>
Coordinated System of Care (CSoc)	Helps children/youth at greatest risk for out of home placement	Age: 5-20 years old	Healthy Louisiana Plan or 1-800-424-4489

EARLY INTERVENTION/SPECIALTY SERVICES			
Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Programs	Early Hearing Detection Lead Poisoning Prevention Genetic Diseases Screening	All newborns All children All newborns	504-599-1086 <a href="http://ldh.la.gov/ehd">ldh.la.gov/ehd</a> 504-568-8523 <a href="http://ldh.la.gov/lead">ldh.la.gov/lead</a> 504-568-8254 <a href="http://ldh.la.gov/genetics">ldh.la.gov/genetics</a>
EarlySteps – Early Intervention Services	Evaluation for developmental delays: ST, OT, PT, special instruction	Medical diagnosis and/or evaluation Children under 3	225-925-2426 866-925-2426 <a href="http://ldh.la.gov/earlysteps">ldh.la.gov/earlysteps</a>
Child Search Educational Assessments	Special education pre-k -12 <sup>th</sup> grade; speech, occupational, physical therapies	Assessments for children over age 3	East Feliciana 225-683-5638 Iberville 225-687-4341 Pointe Coupee 225-638-8674 West Baton Rouge 225-343-8405 West Feliciana 225-635-3891

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FAMILY SUPPORTS			
Organization	Services	Eligibility	Contact
Family Resource Center – Statewide	8-4 M-F, community referrals, resource linkage, transition	All families	504-896-1340 <a href="mailto:BFH-FamilyResourceCenter@la.gov">BFH-FamilyResourceCenter@la.gov</a>
Child Care Assistance Program	Child care assist for children <13, or <18 with a disability	Financial – work or school requirements	877-453-2721 <a href="http://louisianabelieves.com">louisianabelieves.com</a>
Families Helping Families of Greater Baton Rouge	Peer-to-peer support, parent trainings, school accommodations	All youth/families	225-216-7474 866-216-7474 <a href="http://Fhfgr.org">Fhfgr.org</a>
Hands and Voices/ Guide By Your Side	Family peer support for children who are deaf/hard of hearing	Open	337-515-5774/504-388-5712 <a href="http://lahandsandvoices.org">lahandsandvoices.org</a>
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	Food assistance and education (common name food stamps)	Financial, <18 years	888-524-3578 <a href="http://dcls.la.gov">dcls.la.gov</a>
Women Infants and Children (WIC)	Food and formula, breastfeeding support, nutrition education	Financial	800-251-2229 <a href="http://louisianawic.org">louisianawic.org</a>
VIALINK/211	Health/human service resources	All families	211/or 800-749-2673, 24/7

DISABILITY SERVICES			
Exceptional Lives	Online disability services and benefits linkage	Open	844-354-1212 <a href="http://exceptionallives.org">exceptionallives.org</a>
Louisiana Vocational Rehab (LRS)	Career development program for individuals with disabilities	Medical/disability criteria	225-295-8900/800-737-2959 <a href="http://laworks.net">laworks.net</a>
Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities	Eligibility/needs assessments, family supports and services, waiver services	Medical/disability criteria	225-925-1910/866-628-2133 <a href="http://Cahsd.org">Cahsd.org</a>
Social Security Benefit	Financial support	Disability/financial	800-772-1213

CRISIS HOTLINES & HELPLINES <i>*Call 911 for immediate danger</i>			
Mobile Crisis Response	Crisis intervention	Region 2	225-256-6604, 24/7
Domestic Violence	Crisis intervention	Statewide	1-888-411-1333
VIALINK/211	Crisis counseling	504, 985, 337 area codes	211/1-800-273-talk , 24/7

LEGAL			
Disability Rights Louisiana	Legal services, advocacy, outreach	Physical/medical disability	800-960-7705 <a href="http://disabilityrightsla.org">disabilityrightsla.org</a>
Child Protection	Child abuse/neglect investigation	Newborn to 17 years	855-452-5437

Louisiana Department of Health | Office of Public Health | Bureau of Family Health  
[partnersforfamilyhealth.org](http://partnersforfamilyhealth.org)



# Mobile Crisis Response (MCR)

- Services have begun
  - Orleans
  - Lake Charles
  - Lafayette
- Self identified crisis
- Teams deploy to child

# Community Brief Crisis Support

- Serves as an extension to the MCR
- Ongoing crisis intervention response
- Provide stabilization and support
- Additional 15 days of intervention




# Coordinated Systems of Care (CSoC)

- Who is eligible
  - Children 5-20 year
  - Has a DSM 5 diagnosis
  - Meets eligibility
    - Child and adolescent needs and strengths (CANS) scale
  - In out of home placement or at risk
  - Involved with many state agencies





# Coordinated Systems of Care (CSoC)

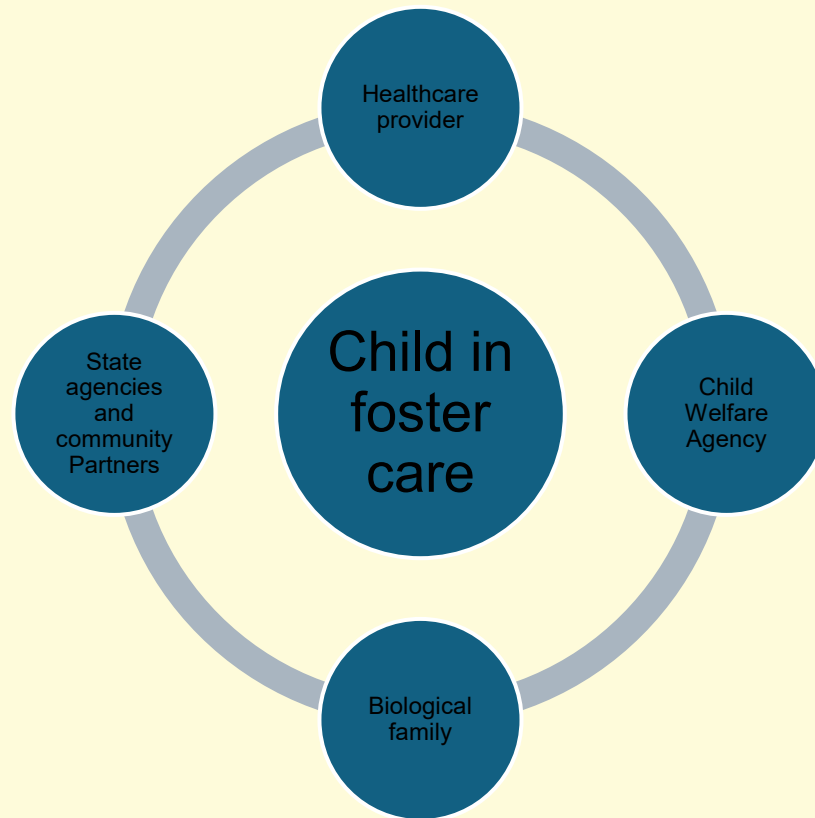
- Wrap around facilitation
  - Referrals
    - Call Magellan Healthcare at 1-800-424-4489
    - The child's caregiver must participate in this phone call.
- 

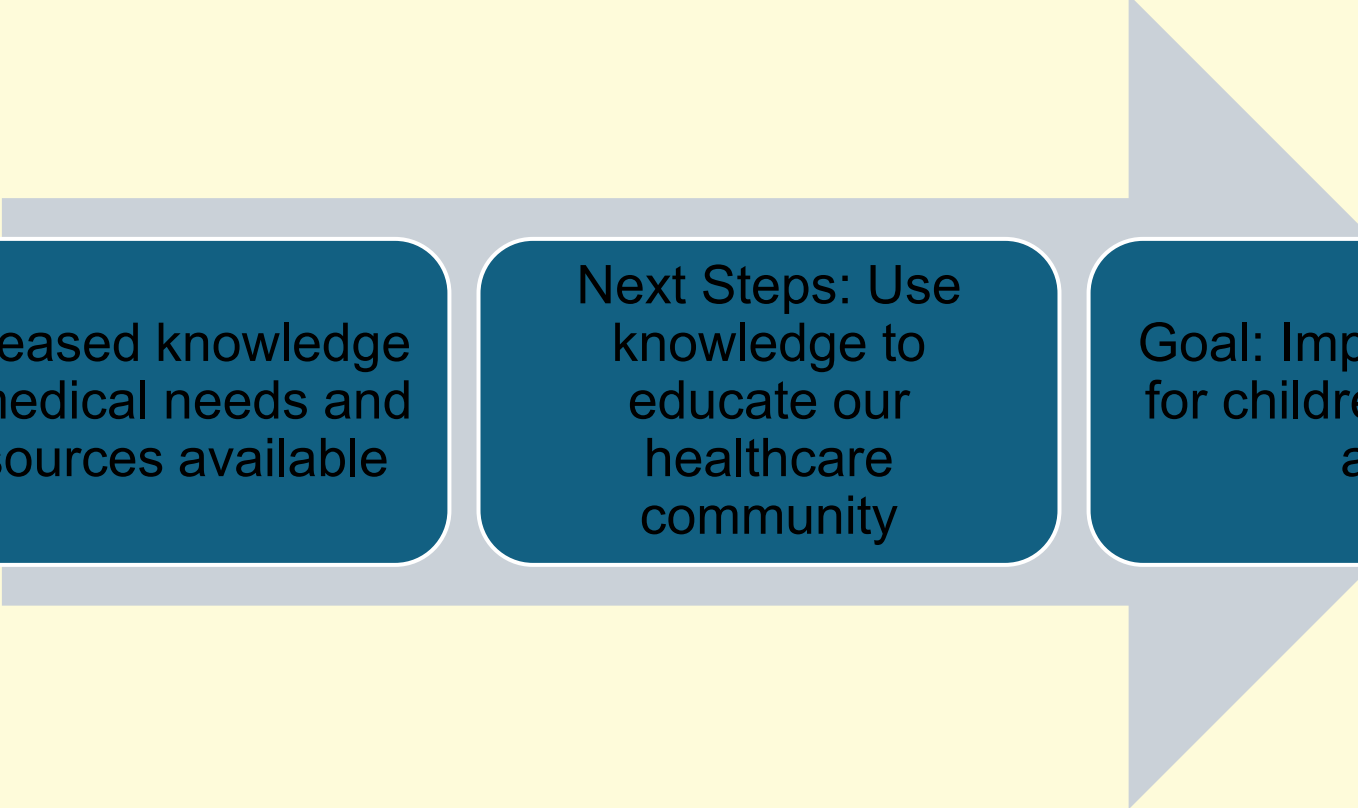

# Provider to Provider Consultation Line (PPCL)

- Available across the state
- How it works
  - Provider registers for PPCL
  - Provider calls 833-721-2881 or registers using online form
  - A Licensed Mental Health consultant responds to questions about behavioral health and local resources
    - If necessary the provider can be connected with an on-call psychiatrist
      - Can assist in diagnostic clarification and medication management
  - Once complete the provider receives a summary report of the consultation via email

# Provider to Provider Consultation Line (PPCL)

- How it can help
  - Consultations
    - Diagnoses
    - Medications
    - Psychotherapy interventions
  - Guidance
    - On pediatric behavioral health topics through TeleECHO series, webinars, and in-person training events
  - Resources
    - Connections with community partners and agencies
      - Intensive in-home providers
      - Support Groups





Increased knowledge  
of medical needs and  
resources available

Next Steps: Use  
knowledge to  
educate our  
healthcare  
community

Goal: Improved care  
for children in foster  
are



# Resources

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# Contact Information

**Rebecca Hook, MD, FAAP**

Director of Medical Services

Department of Children and Family Services

627 N 4th St, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

(o)225-342-9145

[Rebecca.Hook.DCFS@la.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Hook.DCFS@la.gov)

