

**Wake County SmartStart
Activity Description
Social/Emotional Interventions for Young Children**

I. Activity Title: Social/Emotional Interventions for Young Children

II. Activity Codes: a) PSC – 5417 b) PBIS ID – H10

III. Brief Activity Description/Abstract:

This activity will provide ongoing therapeutic intervention and related case management for children ages 0 – 5 (not yet in Kindergarten) with specific mental health needs and their families when insurance or other resources are not available to pay for services provided. Medicaid reimbursement for services will be used to offset program costs. These services will be provided by licensed mental health professionals who have experience and expertise working with young children and their families. Services will be provided in locations convenient to families. Referrals to early intervention will be made as appropriate. This service will join the WCSS Mental Health Collaborative and collaborate with other agencies providing mental health services.

IV. PBIS Minimum or High Performing Standard(s) Addressed by This Activity:

- 3% of the total birth through age two population will have been identified and will have received early intervention services and 3% of the total three to five year old population will have been identified and will have received early intervention services.

V. Full Description of This Activity:

Need: One in five children has a diagnosable mental, emotional or behavioral disorder and up to one in ten may suffer from a serious emotional disturbance. Seventy percent of children, however, do not receive mental health services (Surgeon General’s Report on Mental Health, 1999). Children who are emotionally well-adjusted have a significantly greater chance of early school success while children who experience serious emotional difficulty face an increased risk of early school difficulty (Raver, 2002). Research on early brain development tells us that not only do early experiences relate to later cognitive development, but they seem to be especially related to children’s emotional development and their ability to manage emotions and behaviors. Thus investing early through prevention, early identification and treatment of social emotional issues or mental health problems is paramount to later school success.

Population to be served: The target population for this activity is English and Spanish speaking children ages birth to five (not yet in Kindergarten) who are in need of social/emotional therapeutic services and their families. Children served may display for a variety of social emotional concerns such as aggression, early signs of depression, lack of bonding and disorganization in their approach to play and relationships. Children may also be referred due to family problems such as child neglect or abuse, parental depression, divorce, family violence, substance abuse and unrealistic parental expectations. The activity will provide ongoing therapeutic intervention and related

case management for children ages 0 – 5 (not yet in Kindergarten) with specific mental health needs and their families when insurance or other resources are not available to pay for services provided. Medicaid reimbursement for services will be used to offset program costs. A minimum of 50% of children served will meet the greatest needs definition set forth by WCSS Board of Directors.

Services: *Services will culturally competent and diverse (see definition).*

- Therapeutic services including clinical assessment, therapy, and/or play therapy will be provided for those children with a diagnosed condition or with behaviors that if not treated will result in further problems or potential for failure in social situations (i.e. child care or school). Staff will assist the families and caregivers to understand their role in the child's emotional well-being by providing child and family therapy as it relates to the child and by making referrals for other needed services.
- Case management services will be provided, if no other case management services are available, as appropriate to address significant environmental issues contributing to child's condition.
- Child centered consultation with child care providers will be provided as needed for children served by this activity who attend child care.
- Specialized services needed to augment therapy such as psychiatric services and/or physiological testing will be available to children receiving ongoing treatment. These services will be utilized for those children and their families with the most severe and complex social and emotional problems.

Direct Service Staff: Direct service staff will be culturally competent in serving diverse populations. Therapeutic services will be provided by a licensed mental health professional with at least three years of experience working with young children and their families. Specialized services such as psychological testing and medication management will be provided by a professional licensed to provide such specialized mental health services and with at least five years experience working with young children and families.

Location: Services will be provided in the home or other location convenient to families depending upon family need. Services will be provided at a location that provides for confidential services.

Intensity: Services will be provided according to child and family need; an average of eight face to face contacts will be made with families and children. Children receiving specialized services will be seen on an as needed basis.

Collaboration: This service will join the WCSS Mental Health Collaborative and collaborate with other agencies providing mental health services to optimize resources and avoid duplication of services. Further, collaboration should occur with other agencies serving children birth to five years in order to accept and make appropriate referrals.

VI. Background Information:

Amount of Smart Start money allocated to this activity:

FY 01-02: NA

FY 02-03: NA

FY 03-04: \$59,031

FY 04-05: \$138,068*

*Reflects combined funding for multiple provider agencies

VII. Projected Outputs: (Children served must represent greatest needs minimum percentage)

- 90 - 150 children served
- 90 – 150 families served
- 720 – 1200 face-to-face contacts

VIII. Projected Outcomes:

- By June 30, 2006, 20% of all children served will be referred for developmental assessment/evaluation services based on formal or informal screening information.
- By June 30, 2006, 15% of all children served will receive a developmental assessment/evaluation as a result of referral provided by the activity.
- By June 30, 2006, 10% of all children served will be determined eligible for and will receive Early Intervention or Pre-School services. (Please provide a count of children with IFSPs and IEPs.)
- By June 30, 2006, 80% of all children served at least three times will demonstrate improvement in social/emotional/behavioral development by the completion of services as measured by a standardized tool.
- By June 30, 2006, 90% of children in child care who are served will be allowed to remain in their child care settings completion of services as a result of program activities.