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Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services

DATE: May 26, 2020

TO: DMCPs, Children's Wisconsin Community Services, SaintA

CC: Wraparound Milwaukee, Care4Kids

**FROM: Dr. Michelle Urban, Medical Director,
Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services**

**Bridget Chybowski, Ongoing Services Section Manager
Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services**

**RE: Special Considerations During COVID-19 for Children and Families with Medical
Conditions**

This memo clarifies how the Division of Milwaukee Child Protective Services (DMCPS) is partnering to identify children with CPS or child welfare involvement who have serious underlying medical conditions, in order to facilitate targeted outreach to their caregivers. Out-of-home care providers may need extra support during the COVID-19 pandemic and may also be at a higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 due to underlying medical conditions or age.

The information provided below details DMCPS' existing practices and coordinated efforts to identify children with chronic conditions, disabilities, and those with medically complex conditions in order to offer additional information and support to these children and their caregivers during this challenging time.

Existing DMCPS Practices

The DMCPS Health Unit and Ongoing Agency Nurses collaborate to identify children entering out-of-home care with medically complex conditions and/or who are technology dependent as described in the DMCPS Policy, "Identifying and Securing Services for Medically Complex Children in Out-of-Home Care." Once children are identified as medically complex, additional collaboration occurs Initial Assessment Specialists (IAS), Ongoing Case Managers (OCM) and other care coordinators or service providers to ensure the child and caregiver receive support and services.

Collaboration with Partners to Identify and Support At-Risk Children in OHC

During the COVID19 pandemic, the DMCPS Health Unit and Ongoing Nurses have collaborated with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) and Care4Kids. The DMCPS Health Unit received additional information from the DHS identifies medically vulnerable children in the OHC population using CDC criteria for the underlying conditions that can increase risk for severe illness from COVID-19.

The Care4Kids managed care program for children in OHC has received similar information from DHS regarding their high-risk enrollees who are placed in out of home care. Care4Kids has

been performing phone, email and/or video outreach at the individual child and caregiver level, including strategies to help keep families healthy, and helps them access supports. When Care4Kids is having a difficult time connecting with caregivers of children who are designated high risk, Care4Kids staff are reaching out to the assigned OCM and Supervisor to alert them and confirm that the Care4Kids caregiver contact information is accurate, and to request the child welfare team assist with contacting the caregiver.

DMCPS will continue this collaboration with Care4Kids through OCMs and Ongoing Nurses, to conduct outreach with children and caregivers Care4Kids has not been able to reach. These efforts by Ongoing Agencies will ensure high risk children who are not enrolled in Care4Kids and their caregivers have additional support and information about reducing their chances of contracting COVID-19.

Next Steps

The following lists will be shared with Ongoing Agency Management who will distribute the information to OCMs and their Supervisors.

- Care4Kids high risk enrollee list
- Children in OHC who have been identified as medically high risk who are not enrolled in Care4Kids and are placed outside of Milwaukee County, who may also require additional support

OCMs and OCM Supervisors must review these lists and discuss existing outreach and communication for the children and caregivers with the assigned Ongoing Nurse. The Ongoing Nurse will communicate with the caregivers to provide additional support to these high-risk children, based on the child's medical condition.

It is expected that OCMs, OCM Supervisors, and OHC providers consult primary physicians to determine whether a well-child check should occur during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results of these consultations must be documented in the eWiSACWIS by the OCM.

Ongoing agencies should assess which OHC providers are at higher risk for severe illness from COVID-19 and provide additional support based on Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Wisconsin DHS recommendations. If medical guidance is needed, Ongoing agencies should consult their Ongoing Nurses or the DMCPS Health Unit. Ongoing agencies should also work in collaboration with Treatment Foster Care Agencies to identify at-risk OHC providers.

References

- [CDC webpage: Groups at Higher Risk](#)
- [DMCPS Policy, "Identifying and Securing Services for Medically Complex Children in Out-of-Home Care."](#)