 **NMCAA Child and Family Development Health Plan**

Northwest Michigan Community Action Agency is committed to protecting the health of our children, families, staff, and community. The following health plan is designed in response to guidance from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs and Health and Human Services along with our Head Start Performance Standards, in accordance with best practices from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and with everyone’s well-being in mind. NMCAA provides high-quality health, oral health, mental health, and nutrition services that are developmentally, culturally, and linguistically appropriate and that will support each child’s growth and school readiness. Our program has established and maintains a Health Services Advisory Committee that includes Head Start parents, professionals, and other volunteers from the community.

NMCAA employs Recruitment and Health Specialists (R&H) to work with families to be up-to-date on their immunizations and determine a child is up-to-date on a schedule for age appropriate preventive and primary care (Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment-EPSDT). This happens within the first 30 days of enrollment in Head Start or within 90 days of enrollment in Early Head Start from their Health Care provider. Additionally, Child and Family Development programs require all children to complete a growth assessment, developmental screening, hearing screening and vision screening within the first 45 days of enrollment. Within the first 90 days, children must complete a blood pressure, lead test, anemia test and dental exam for Head Start. R&H communicate with families regarding any children needing follow-up care.

Recruitment and Health Specialists communicate with families regarding the importance of up to date medical and oral health requirements and immunizations and how it connects to school readiness. R&H determine if a family has a medical home and dental home, and if they have health insurance coverage. For families that do not have continuous care, they are given a list of professionals in the area. For families that do not have health insurance coverage, R&H will assist families in applying for Medicaid. Child and Family Development funds can be used to help families pay for health requirements once approved.

R&H track all children’s health requirements and immunizations electronically using ChildPlus and the Michigan Care Improvement Registry (MCIR). They are in regular communication with classroom staff, home visitors, and families about any updates or needs a family may have.

To limit the potential spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses, NMCAA Child and Family Development Programs have established procedures for handwashing, handling bodily fluids, cleaning, sanitizing, disinfecting, and controlling infection. This includes robust cleaning and disinfecting procedures and minimizing opportunities for person-to-person exposure. Handwashing and Routine Center Cleaning signs are posted in all classrooms and socialization spaces for staff, children, families, and volunteers.

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