 **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 Child and Family Development families, professionals, and other volunteers from the community.

NMCAA employs Recruitment and Health Specialists (R&H) to support families in their health needs. This includes determining immunization and health statuses are up to date for enrolled children according to the 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 (2 years and older), 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 or Child Family Specialist (CFS) communicate with families regarding any children needing follow-up care.

Recruitment and Health Specialists educate 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, along with health insurance coverage. Families that do not have continuous care are given a list of health and dental professionals in the area. R&H will assist families in applying for Medicaid when they do not have health insurance coverage; 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 communicable diseases 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 sanitizing and disinfecting procedures to minimize 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.

5/23 EHS-HS Teams\Admin\Pro Man\Health\NMCAA Child and Family Development Health Plan