

# Maine Foster Care Committee

## 2019 Scope of Work Summary

**Mission: The mission of the Foster Care Committee is to improve the health and medical care of children in foster care in Maine.**

### **Priorities:**

1. Collaborate with OCFS to ensure that services for children align with recommendations and guidelines of AAP and Child Welfare League of America
2. Collaborate with OCFS to improve the communication between state medical providers and staff of OCFS in order to better serve children's medical needs
3. Provide education to medical providers, foster parents, and OCFS staff, about the health care needs of children in foster care
4. Provide a platform for communication between programs offering Comprehensive Health Assessment with goal of improving system of statewide standards

### **Activities:**

1. Establish a Maine Chapter of the AAP Foster Care Committee to collaborate with the Maine state agencies and medical practices throughout the state
2. Reinforce relationships with Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS)
  - Invite Staff from OCFS and DHHS to be present at Foster Care Committee meetings
  - Recent presentation by Director of OCFS (November meeting)
  - Committee representation on Maine Child Welfare Advisory Panel
  - Committee representation at Stakeholder meetings held by DHHS in regards to Children's Behavioral Health and Child Welfare
3. Partner with DHHS and OCFS to plan for implementation of Family First
  - Share AAP toolkit with legislators
  - Attend Family First stakeholder meeting – FC committee represented at initial planning meeting
4. Committee members provided testimony during legislative session in regards to bill introduced to ensure comprehensive evaluations are standardized, and mandate reimbursement for gathering of medical records.
5. Collaborate with OCFS to ensure that every child has an initial evaluation within 10 days of entering foster care (Maine statute)
  - Committee member attended meetings with state nurses and Medical director of OCFS

6. Increase provider and stakeholder awareness of the unique health care needs of children in foster care
  - Presentations at residency programs at EMMC and Maine Medical Center
  - Presentation at Adoptive and Foster Families of Maine spring conference
  - Presentation at Maine CDC conference on Substance Exposed Infants
7. Improve quality of care and standard of practice at three sites providing comprehensive health assessment services available throughout the State, including:
  - Spurwink, PREP Clinic and Child Abuse Evaluation program
  - Edmund N Ervin Pediatric Center
  - Key Clinic, Penobscot Community Health Center
8. Collaborate with the OCFS to create a standard comprehensive health assessment (CHA) and ensure that children in all parts of the state have access to an assessment
9. Continue to collaborate with leadership from OCFS to develop a negotiated rate with Medicaid (MaineCare) and OCFS for such services
10. Create a website and social media sites to aid in the education of Maine's foster families, child welfare workers and medical providers about the importance of early medical care, and comprehensive assessments
  - Facebook
  - Twitter
  - Webpage
11. Create google drive with resources for members of the Committee
  - Meeting agendas and minutes
  - Pertinent Literature
  - Reports and information available from DHHS and OCFS