



# Behavioral Health in Pediatrics Foster Care

## *Quality Improvement Project*

### **Why is the BeHIP Foster Care QI Project needed?**

For children in the foster care system, mental and behavioral health is the largest unmet need. Children in the foster care system have experienced at least one traumatic event, with most having multiple traumatic events. Trauma can be in the form of abuse, neglect, death of a family member, absence of a parent or caretaker, exposure to criminal activity, and the removal from their home. Trauma adversely affects a child's well-being. These children also have a higher incidence of physical health problems, many of which are rooted in the adverse events they have experienced. Ideally these children would have access to a well-trained, experienced mental health clinician. However, the reality is that many communities lack mental and behavioral health providers for children. In these cases, the primary care provider becomes the sole source of care.

### **What's included?**

Key topics include navigation of the Department of Children's Services system, connecting with local DCS staff, trauma-informed care, ACEs, use of screening tools, office-based interventions, psycho-pharmacology and more, with the goal of becoming a FCMH. Trainings are scheduled when it's convenient for you and are provided at no cost.

### **What's our goal?**

The pediatric practice will increase screening for the identified behavioral health concern (Depression or Substance Abuse) by 10% over a 12-month period

### **How can YOU get involved?**

- Complete BAA with TNAAP
- Participate in quality improvement training
- Participate in BeHIP Foster Care Training
- Establish a QI Team
- Implement validated screening tool for depression or substance use
- Run data reports on the EMR monthly
- Review monthly data reports
- Implement evidence-based process changes
- Use the Model for Improvement with a minimum of four Plan, Do, Study, Act cycles to implement chosen process changes
- Participate in at least two coaching sessions with the Quality Coach

### **Personalized Support to Practice**

- Monthly analysis of Data
- Run Charts of Progress
- Periodic check-ins with practices by phone
- Assistance with Plan, Do, Study Act cycles
- Onsite consultation as needed

These trainings and resources are provided free of charge!

**ENROLL TODAY!**

Contact: [becky.brumley@tnaap.org](mailto:becky.brumley@tnaap.org)