

Informational Resources:

Psychotropic Medications and Children in Foster Care

State child welfare systems are required to submit descriptions of protocols planned or in place for the oversight and monitoring of psychotropic medications for children and youth in foster care to the Children's Bureau, within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). HHS has taken steps to support States in developing and/or strengthening these plans, including hosting a Summit (August, 2012) for State child welfare, mental health, and Medicaid leaders from across the country. The following resources have been integral to HHS's efforts and provide important information to systems working to improve psychotropic medication management for children and youth in foster care.

GAO Reports

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) report, "HHS Guidance Could Improve Oversight of Psychotropic Medications," examines Medicaid data from five States with specific attention to use of psychotropics with children under the age of one, concomitant use of five or more psychotropic medications, and prescription of dosages of psychotropic drugs exceeding FDA guidelines. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-12-270T>

Letter to State Directors

In November 2011, leaders of the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a letter to State child welfare, Medicaid, and mental health authorities describing activities that HHS undertook related to psychotropic medication oversight and monitoring for children and youth in foster care. <http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/mentalhealth/effectiveness/jointlettermeds.pdf>

Information Memorandum

The Children's Bureau released an information memorandum (IM) to State child welfare agencies in April 2012, providing an overview of research on psychotropic medication use among children and youth in foster care. The IM also contains information about guidelines for oversight and monitoring of these medications promulgated by professional associations and supported in scholarly literature. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/laws_policies/policy/im/2012/im1203.pdf

NSCAW Brief

The National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being (NSCAW) is a longitudinal study of children and youth who come to the attention of the child welfare system. This research brief uses NSCAW data to examine the use of psychotropic medications and

behavioral health services among children and youth with demonstrated need for mental health services. http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/abuse_neglect/nscaw/reports/psychotropic-meds/NSCAW-Psychotropic-Meds-Brief-No-17.pdf

Webinars

To engage child welfare, Medicaid, and mental health audiences across the country, the Children's Bureau, in partnership with the National Technical Assistance Center for Children's Mental Health at Georgetown University hosted two three-part webinar series. Recordings and slides from all six webinars are available for download and playback online. http://gucchdtacenter.georgetown.edu/child_welfare-Past.html#Past, http://gucchdtacenter.georgetown.edu/child_welfare.html

Because Minds Matter Summit Materials

The August 2012 Summit, *Because Minds Matter: Collaborating to Strengthen Psychotropic Medication Monitoring for Children and Youth in Foster Care* brought together child welfare, mental health, and Medicaid leaders from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Slide presentations, handouts, and tools for State planning are online. <http://www.pal-tech.com/web/psychotropic/>

Child Welfare Information Gateway

In addition to the materials listed here, the Child Welfare Information Gateway has compiled research, reports, guidelines, and examples of State and local practices related to psychotropic medication use, oversight, and management in foster care. All of the items listed here can also be found there. This page is updated regularly with new information and tools for policymakers, programs, and practitioners. <http://www.childwelfare.gov/systemwide/mentalhealth/effectiveness/psychotropic.cfm>