

Masking Traumatic Experiences

The Use of Psychotropic Medications in the
Treatment of Trauma and Abuse
Protocols to Care of the Dependent Child

Art Martinez, PHD
Clinical Psychologist

Kathy Deserly
Associate Director

National Resource Center for Tribes
A service of the Children's Bureau

Our Most precious resource is our
children

Dependent children in foster or family care must
be optimal in our diligence to provide

An environment of caring that seeks healing of
traumatic events rather than quelling the
symptoms for another time

The Responsibility is Ours

We must be diligent in this care

Their future is literally in our hands

Federal Legislation now Emphasizes Oversight of Psychotropic Medication for All Dependent Children

Public Law 110-351, The Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008, amended Title IV-B of the Social Security Act to require **Tribes and States** receiving Title IV-B, subpart 1 funds develop a plan for ongoing oversight and coordination of health care services for children in foster care, including mental health, behavioral health and dental health needs.

The Health Care Oversight and Coordination Plan must now include:

- ✓ A schedule for initial and follow up health screenings
- ✓ How health needs will be monitored and treated, including emotional trauma associated with a child's maltreatment and removal from home
- ✓ How medical information will be updated and appropriately shared
- ✓ Steps to ensure continuity of health care services, including establishing a medical home for every child in care
- ✓ Oversight of prescription medicines including protocols for appropriate use and monitoring of psychotropic medications
- ✓ How the tribe actively consults with and involves physicians or other appropriate medical or non-medical professionals in assessing the health and well-being of children in foster care, and determining appropriate medical treatment for children
- ✓ Steps to ensure that components of transition plan development process that relate to health care needs of children aging out of foster care are met

Tribal Plans

Tribes were required to submit (to their federal regional ACF office) the Health Care Oversight and Coordination Plan in their Title IV-B Annual Program Services Plan by June 30, 2012.

All tribes receiving IV-B funds are required to address how the plan requirements are being met for tribal children in foster care.

The Tribe must also address how they are involved with their children in State health care oversight processes for their tribal children.

Behavioral Responses Are A Part Of A Child's Response To Abuse And Neglect

Aggressive behavior

Acting out in an effort to return to the known, or their family

Unconscious or driven acting out

Dissociation, spiritually checking out

Behavioral upheaval

What Should We Expect?

Response sets to abuse survivorship

Response sets to placement adjustment

Response sets to issues of attachment

Response Sets To Abuse And Neglect

Anxiety
Increased vigilance
Problems of activity level
Anger
Powerlessness
Dissociation, loss of spirit
Substance abuse

Response Sets To Placement

Anxiety multiplied by absence of safety
Powerlessness of helplessness
Anger displaced

Response Sets To Issues Of Attachment

Unconscious lashing out
Behavioral regression,
Over compliant behavior
Problems of learning

What Is The Systemic Response To The Child's Issues Or Behaviors?

Case Manage
Hope in the providers of care
Medically manage the behaviors
Hope for healing

This is simply not enough

The Role Of The Court

Protect the child from abuse

Primary: protect from abusive home

Secondary: Protect from an abuse system

Tertiary: protect from misguided services
response

Our Role Is To?

Have a process to guide services

Develop a process to thoughtfully inform the court

To carry the responsibility of culturally informed
response

To speak for the child

The Role Of Tribal Structure Is To:

Insure a competent system of care
Insure culturally appropriate responses to abuse
To speak for our future

A Tribal System Of Caring Of The Abused

Is there a codified system of care that relates to the oversight of Psycho pharmacological medications or meds

Considerations in Drug Protocol development

Develop a thoughtful process for consideration and advisement

Develop and insure a process of court consideration

Inform the process of the of how to develop competence in this consultation

What Are The Critical Components Of This Process?

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Thoughtful Beginnings

Learn about trauma response
Consider our place in history
Arm ourselves with knowledgeable insight
Be stewards of our sacred responsibility

Thoughtful Considerations

Know the child
Compare your experience of them
Commit to being there for the child

Questions

Planning for the process