I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), Children’s Mental Health Programs that services to children, adolescents, and families will receive medical oversight and supervision by a licensed psychiatrist. It is recognized that children, youth and families served by DCFS Children’s Mental Health programs require comprehensive differential diagnostic evaluation, comprehensive and integrated treatment planning, and medical management in all three of the biological, psychological, and social spheres, within the Nevada System of Care.

II. PURPOSE

This policy describes how medical oversight and supervision will ensure the ongoing provision of medically necessary services to children, adolescents, and families. It illustrates how medical oversight facilitates the prevention and treatment of illness with focus on the promotion of wellness and quality of services.

III. DEFINITIONS

Client: Pursuant to NRS 433B.050, client means a child who seeks, on his own or another’s initiative, mental health services and can benefit from care and treatment provided by DCFS.
**DCFS or Division:** The Division of Child and Family Services

**Medical Supervision:** The documented oversight that ensures the medical appropriateness of the mental health program and services

**Medical Director:** A licensed psychiatrist with at least two years experience in a mental health treatment setting who has the competency to oversee and evaluate a comprehensive mental and/or behavioral health treatment program including rehabilitation services and medication management to children and adolescents who are determined having a severe emotional disturbance (SED)

**Medication Algorithms:** A formal procedure and rationale used by physicians for choosing options related to medication regimes

**Medication Management:** A medical treatment service using psychotropic medications for the purpose of rapid symptom reduction, to maintain improvement in a chronic recurrent disorder, or to prevent or reduce the chances of relapse or reoccurrence

**Outcome:** An event, occurrence, or condition after services have been provided

**Performance and Quality Improvement:** The complete process of identifying, describing, and analyzing strengths and problems and then testing, implementing, learning from, and revising solutions. Performance and Quality Improvement is not a time limited project or initiative. It is the ongoing process by which a system makes decisions, evaluates its progress and implements program improvement.

**Supervision:** The direction and oversight of the work and performance of other workers

**Treatment:** A planned, medically appropriate, individualized program of interactive medical, psychological, rehabilitative procedures, therapeutic interventions and/or services designed to rehabilitate, relieve or minimize mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders

**Quality:** A measure of whether services increase the likelihood of desired mental health outcomes and are consistent with current evidenced-based practice

**IV. PROCEDURES**

A. Each DCFS Children’s Mental Health Program will ensure medical supervision by a Medical Director.

B. The Medical Director is the agency senior clinical leader. This position will either directly perform or will provide oversight and supervision to the following functions:
   1. Provides advice, counsel, and oversight to a broad range of medical, clinical, utilization, programmatic, and strategic issues that determine the medical appropriateness of mental health programs and services
      a. Assessments
      b. Therapy
      c. Testing
      d. Psychiatric and medical services
      e. Clinical training
      f. Case management
g. Discharge planning  
h. 24-hour per day emergency response

2. Provides leadership and mentoring to clinical staff as a key member of the multidisciplinary team
3. Establishes and promotes the professional, clinical, and ethical values and standards to which all clinical staff are expected to adhere
4. Complies with confidentiality laws and HIPAA Privacy Regulations promulgated in 45 CFR 160, 162, and 164
5. Participates in the establishment and maintains standards of care on both clinical and programmatic levels.
6. Participates in the development and implements clinical policies, procedures and protocols  
   a. To ensure medical necessity and appropriateness of services provided  
   b. To ensure providers operate under medical supervision and medical supervisors operate within the scope of their licensure and expertise  
   c. To utilize clinical supervision as described in Chapter 400 of the Nevada Medicaid Services Manual
7. Screens and authorizes the children and adolescents under consideration for admission to inpatient facilities according to utilization management guidelines and medical necessity criteria
8. Prescribes and monitors medication, implements medication algorithms, and monitors prescribing practices
9. Monitors dispensing of medication in group home, residential, and inpatient facilities
10. Prescribes and monitors use of seclusion and restraint according to DCFS policy and pursuant to NRS 433.5496
11. Provides medical assessment of seclusion and restraint according to DCFS policy
12. Provides consultation regarding individual case situations and emergency consultation
13. Works on behalf of clients and their families to ensure effective care coordination with other providers and community partners
14. Monitors and evaluates the ongoing quality and effectiveness of the services provided within DCFS
15. Provides consultation to the DCFS Planning and Evaluation Unit that facilitates the development and implementation of a comprehensive system for determining performance and client outcomes in children’s mental health in order to ensure quality of treatment and related services provided

C. The Medical Director must document oversight and supervision at least one time yearly and at all times when determined medically appropriate based on review of circumstance. This is accomplished through the oversight, supervision, and approval of the DCFS Children’s Mental Health Services Planning and Evaluation Unit annual report submitted to the Division of Health Care Financing and Policy entitled, DCFS Performance and Quality Improvement Summary.