

X ACTION REQUIRED

DATE OF MEETING: 5/23/2013

PREPARED BY: Deborah Lee

DATE MATERIAL PREPARED: 5/8/2013

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**AGENDA ITEM:** Update: MHSOAC Paper “Children, Youth, and Families: MHSOAC Prevention and Early Intervention Action Plan Priorities for the First Three Years”

**ENCLOSURES:**

- Revised PEI paper with changes highlighted
- Expanded paper on mental health dimensions and responses to bullying: *Bullying: An Urgent Public Health Issue*
- PowerPoint presentation highlighting revisions and key issues related to mental health dimensions of bullying

**OTHER MATERIAL RELATED TO ITEM:** None

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Issue:

- The 2006 MHSOAC policy paper titled *MHSOAC Prevention/Early Intervention Action Plan for the First Three Years* has been modified to add a section on bullying as a mental health issue.

Background:

- The PEI paper summarizes research that prevention and early interventions for children and youth and their families make a “visible and lasting difference.” Because half of all lifetime cases of mental health disorders start by age 14, three-fourths start by age 24, intervening early is a critically important and powerful strategy with significant potential long-term impact.
- The key purpose of the paper is to highlight a number of areas in which prevention and early intervention programs for children and youth and their families have demonstrated their effectiveness.
- Bullying is a significant mental health issue, with mental health risk factors as well as serious short-term and long-term mental health consequences. Evidence suggests that ecological anti-bullying programs can be effective in preventing these consequences, as well as related negative outcomes. Ecological approaches include a focus on individual traits, family experiences, parental involvement, school climate, and community characteristics.
- The original paper has been revised to add a section on bullying and to update some obsolete references to PEI. All changes are highlighted for easy reference.
- Also included is an expanded stand-alone paper describing the mental health implications of and recommended interventions to prevent bullying, in order to provide more detail about this critical issue. The paper includes a brief description of some counties’ MHSOAC-funded anti-bullying efforts.

Proposed Motion:

The Commission accepts the revisions to the PEI paper, now titled *Children, Youth, and Families: MHSOAC Prevention and Early Intervention Action Plan Priorities for the First Three Years*.