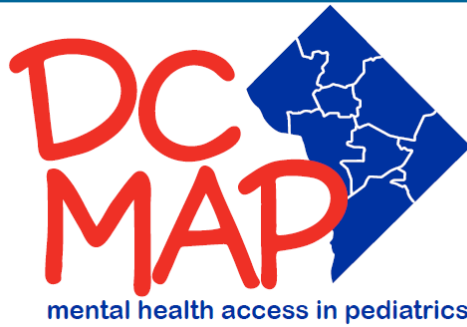


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Issue 2

Newsletter Date: October, 2015

## WELCOME!

Welcome to the second edition of our DC MAP newsletter! In this edition, we highlight the goals of DC MAP and how to utilize the service. In this issue we will provide practical steps to offer parents to help them secure school-based services for children with learning problems. It is the goal of our program to provide consultative assistance to your practice and training for you to help you manage the mental health and behavioral concerns of your patients and their families. ~DC MAP Team

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## What is DC MAP? DC Mental Health Access in Pediatrics

DC MAP provides consultative assistance to primary care practitioners. The project is :

- Staffed by an interdisciplinary team from Children's National and MedStar Georgetown University Hospital with consultation from Howard University
- Supported by the DC Department of

Behavioral Health

### **Services provided:**

- Rapid response and live phone consultation with a child mental health team (psychiatrists, psychologists and social workers)
- Brief, time-limited follow-up services as clinically indicated

- Educational outreach on child mental health to participating practices and community agencies
- Resource guide maintenance

## Tips for when to consult with DC MAP:

DC MAP consultation can help providers to address typical mental health concerns for patients. Some examples are when:

- Providers would like information about managing conditions (e.g., tantrums, sleep problems) of patients in their practice,

- Parents express concern about an increase in their child's symptoms such as aggression, anxiety, and depression,
- Parents are concerned about learning problems or poor school adjustment,
- Providers would like

assistance in adjusting psychiatric medications.

- Providers need assistance locating appropriate community-based mental health resources for a family.

## STEPS FOR PARENTS



## Page 2 Spotlight on securing school-based services

If the school age child is having behavioral and/or academic issues at school:

- Parents should talk to the principal and ask for the **SST Request Form** to complete.
- A meeting of the Student Support Team (SST) should be scheduled, with the parent included. The SST may refer at this point to the IEP team, or an Academic/Behavioral Instructional Strategies (ABIS) plan will be developed by the SST. This usually provides special instructional support in reading or math, and/or supports to increase the child's cooperation and motivation.
- The SST then meets every 2 weeks to assess progress, over, at most, a 6 week period.
- A final SST meeting is held. The SST will then suggest continuing the ABIS, if that provides adequate support, or refer the child to the IEP team to find out if the child qualifies for resources as part of an Individualized Education Plan (IEP).
- If the SST recommends an IEP team evaluation, or the Special Education director at the school recommends it, parents should complete a **written request** to the principal or special education director, for an evaluation to determine if the child qualifies for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Parents should **date** this request and keep a copy for themselves.
- Within 30 days, the parent should receive a written response either asking for their consent to a particular evaluation plan or denying the request for an evaluation. Once the request is approved, the school should write up an Evaluation Plan and arrange for the appropriate testing. The school has 60 days after receiving the signed consent form to complete the evaluation of the child.

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### IEP EVALUATION PLAN

A Parent should request that the evaluation plan include a full team evaluation by :

1. A school psychologist assessing IQ, achievement, attention and behavior;
2. A speech pathologist evaluating receptive and expressive language; and
3. An Occupational Therapist (OT) evaluating fine motor/writing skills and sensory processing.
4. If the child has adjustment problems in the classroom or with peers at school, a classroom behavior observation( functional behavior assessment) should be completed by the Behavior Specialist or School Psychologist .

If no one at the school responds to your concerns in a timely manner, consider contacting one of the following: [The Instructional Superintendent](#) for the child's DCPS School Cluster 202-442-5885 , or the [DC Public Charter School Board](#) 202-328-2660.

### Page 3 Early Childhood Referrals

#### Referring infants and toddlers, birth through 2 years:

The DC Early Intervention Program (DC EIP) – Strong Start Child Find Program is a system to identify and refer children birth through two years of age, who may have a developmental delay in one or more of the following areas: speech, language, fine and/or gross motor skills, social/emotional skills, vision and hearing.

Contact: Jerri Johnston-Stewart, Program Manager

Email: [osse.dceip@dc.gov](mailto:osse.dceip@dc.gov)

tel. (202) 727-3665

Website: <http://osse.dc.gov/service/strong-start-dc-early-intervention-program-dc-eip>

The family will be contacted for a home-based evaluation and a service coordinator assigned. Pediatrician input can be helpful in determining service needs.

If found eligible for services, an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) will be developed, outlining the early intervention services to be provided.



#### Referring children 2 years 8 months to 5 years 10 months of age:

Preschool age children who show suspected developmental delay in one or more of the following areas: speech, language, fine and/or gross motor skills, social/emotional or behavioral skills, should be referred to the Early Stages Diagnostic Center run by the DC Public School system. Children with suspected delays can be referred, if they are already attending a public or private preschool, or have not entered school. An interdisciplinary team will evaluate the child and provide any needed intervention services.

Contact:

Tel. 202-698-8037

Email: [referrals@earlystagesdc.org](mailto:referrals@earlystagesdc.org)

Website: <http://www.earlystagesdc.org/for-professionals/referrals>

Infants and Toddlers  
with suspected delays

Preschoolers with  
delays

Why DC MAP?

- Primary care is a first line of identification of children with or at risk for emotional or behavioral problems
- To support PCPs in meeting the mental health needs of children in their practice

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Using DC MAP Services:

- Call about any issue pertaining to mental health
- Child insurance status or home state does not matter
- Enrollment strongly encouraged (though not required):

Practice Enrollment Form: <https://cri-datacap.org/surveys/?s=XCj2q9Xbxk>

Provider Enrollment Form: <https://cri-datacap.org/surveys/?s=2TUbz7XwG6>

- Be prepared to provide basic information about your question/patient and we will connect you with the appropriate team member.
- We will follow up with providers and families after consultations to determine if services were attained and assess satisfaction with consultation

Hours: Monday – Friday 9am-5pm

**Please note this is a provider-to-provider consultation service and not intended to be used directly by families.**

For questions or to learn more contact:  
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