

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING & ENHANCEMENT (DSEP) PROGRAM

Disclaimer: This document represents the knowledge and practice of the individual that completed this FAQ

1. What is your program's focus and what services does your program provide?

DSEP is a multi-agency collaborative system of care that addresses the developmental and social-emotional needs of children under age six who enter the Child Welfare Services (CWS) system in San Diego County. DSEP provides developmental and social-emotional/behavioral screenings, long-term facilitated case management, and direct intervention with children and caregivers.

2. Who is eligible for services (age, other criteria)?

DSEP serves children under 6 years old, with an open case with CWS.

3. What type of evaluations can be performed by DSEP?

DSEP completes developmental screenings using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire version 3 (ASQ-3) for all children. DSEP also completes a social-emotional screening for all children using the Ages and Stages Questionnaire Social-Emotional version 2 (ASQ:SE2). Additionally, for children 18 months of age and older, DSEP completes the Child Behavior Checklist (CBCL).

4. What happens after the evaluation?

After the screening visit is completed, DSEP develops an Individual Care Plan (ICP) for each child. Based on the child's screening results, the DSEP Developmental Specialist develops an Action Plan in collaboration with the child's team (which often includes the child's caregiver, birth parents, and/or Social Worker). The Action Plan includes recommendations for services and supports to address the child's identified needs from the screening.

5. Are therapy services provided by DSEP?

DSEP does not provide therapy services, but therapy is a service recommendation made for many children who receive a DSEP screening. DSEP Developmental Specialists work with the child's caregiver and Social Worker to place therapy referrals and obtain supporting documentation and required paperwork. DSEP does offer a short-term behavior coaching service for caregivers and parents which is often provided as a bridging service, while children are waiting for therapy services to begin.

6. What is the best method of referral?

DSEP and CWS have a systematic referral system, whereby all children under six years old whose CWS case opened are referred to DSEP weekly from the CWS data unit. Social workers and caregivers can also refer at any time should they have developmental and/or behavioral concerns. Referrals can be made by calling the DSEP mainline at (858) 966-7874.

7. What role does the primary care pediatric provider play in referral or communication with DSEP?

DSEP Developmental Specialists are in close contact with children's PCPs, and frequently reach out requesting referrals made for evaluations (e.g., Speech Evaluation, Occupational Therapy Evaluation, Audiology Evaluation etc.). Typically, DSEP requests the order from the PCP directly via the child's electronic medical record (EPIC), but if the child's PCP does not use EPIC, DSEP sends a fax requesting the PCP place the order.



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