



Community Family Services (CFS) - Coordination of Medical Services (COMS)

Children and teens have often received only fragmentary and sporadic health care prior to entering foster care. Typically, they enter foster care with a high prevalence of undiagnosed or under-treated chronic medical problems.

Of the children and teens entering foster care:

-About 50% have chronic physical problems (e.g., asthma, anemia, visual loss, hearing loss, and neurological disorders)

-About 10% are medically fragile or complex

(as reported by the American Academy of Pediatrics 7/21/21)

Coordination of Medical Service is a comprehensive nursing service provided by a registered nurse responsible for identifying foster children's medical, dental, behavioral and developmental needs and assisting caregivers and case managers in getting these needs met per Children's Division's guidelines and best practices according to the American Academy of Pediatrics. COMS is clinically based, child-centered and serves foster children and their families by helping to close gaps in medical care for these high-risk children.

Available services provided by the Our Little Haven COMS:

- request and review medical records
- identify services needed and/or gaps in services
- provide referrals to specific providers as needed
- educate families on the foster child(ren)'s health needs
- assess the child(ren)'s home environment
- meet regularly with the legal guardian
- coordinate care between the case management team, medical team and family
- attend FST meetings as needed
- available for clinical collaboration

Other possible benefits to support the alternative care community:

- Support case managers by helping to relieve the burden of tracking medical histories and appointments, reviewing medical records, and developing a plan of care for each child.
- Avoid fragmentary, crisis-oriented care by decreasing the number of emergency department (ED) visits and hospital admissions.

How to Refer:

COMS coordinates with the following community providers:

- First Steps
- Jefferson County pediatricians
- Medical, Dental and Mental Health Specialists

Complete a referral form and send securely to: Fax: **314.531.3164** Attn: **COMS** or cfsreferrals@ourlittlehaven.org