

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**Department of Health Care Finance**



December 18, 2013

Dear Pediatric Primary Care Providers:

The District of Columbia Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) is delighted to support the Improve Mental Health Screening in Pediatric Practice: Quality Improvement MOC Learning Collaborative. As of 7/1/2013, the DC DHCF 5-year contracts with the DC Medicaid Managed Care Organizations (MCO's) state that the "[MCO] shall require annual Mental Health & Substance Abuse screenings by the enrollee's PCP.... DMH[*note now the Department of Behavioral Health*] must approve the screening tool used by the [MCO's] PCPs."

Ensuring that primary care providers are well-equipped to conduct screening and address concerns which arise is critical to the success of routine, standardized mental health screening implementation. This web-enabled quality improvement learning collaborative will provide training and support to facilitate provider readiness and ability to implement universal mental health screening in primary care settings for children covered by Medicaid.

As the District of Columbia's State Medicaid agency and the agency responsible for overseeing MCO contracts, DHCF has a mission to improve health outcomes for D.C. residents. As such, DCHF shares the goals of the Learning Collaborative and will continue to work with the Learning Collaborative's organizers to share information about resources and financing. I would therefore encourage all primary care practices and clinicians who provide well-child care to children insured by Medicaid to participate in this training.

We are enthusiastic about this innovative Learning Collaborative and believe that it will greatly enhance provider and practice readiness to implement universal mental health screening for the District's children.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen Sonosky". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Colleen Sonosky, JD  
Associate Director, Division of Children's Health Services  
Health Care Delivery Management Administration  
Department of Health Care Finance