Behavioral Health Network (BHN) and the Collaborative for Educational Services (CES) offer Early Childhood Mental Health Services for Hampden, Berkshire, Hampshire and Franklin Counties, funded by the Massachusetts Department of Early Education and Care (EEC).

The ECMH Program provides consultation services that help support the social-emotional development and behavioral health of children in early education and care programs.

ECMH consultants provide guidance to programs, educators, and families on addressing the developmental, emotional, and behavioral challenges of infants and young children in early education settings.
About Our Program

Our Goal:
To support the capacity and guide development of practice for early education staff in order to promote young children's healthy social and emotional development and address the needs of children who exhibit challenging behaviors with supportive, trauma informed strategies.

Through prevention, collaboration, and intervention, we aim to:

- Support healthy social emotional development of all children through positive and nurturing relationships and environmental modifications.
- Guide the development of educator practice to better address the needs of children who exhibit behavioral challenges.
- Reduce the number of children who are suspended or expelled from EEC licensed programs.
- Promote collaboration for better access to supportive services for children and families.

Who is eligible?
Independent and system-affiliated FCC providers, EEC licensed center-based and out-of-school time programs, Head Start/Early Head Start Programs, public school preschool programs, public school district out-of-school programs, and DESE approved private schools that serve children under the age of 14 years.

How the consultation program works:

- Due to the pandemic, currently all ECMH services are being done virtually.
- One of our clinicians will conduct virtual observations of the child in the school and home to gather information about the child's strengths and needs. We will then conduct virtual consultation with the educators and parents to create a team support plan to help the child be successful in their school setting. The team support plan will focus on modifications to teacher practice, universal strategies, and child-specific recommendations.
- Virtual whole classroom and program-wide services are also available.
- The time frame for services is typically 3-6 months.
- This is designed to be a prevention service, not a crisis service.

Services are based on location of the school:

**Hampden or Berkshire County**
Behavioral Health Network
Jean Fater, Program Coordinator
413.568.1421 x55730 phone
413.572.4104 fax
Jean.Fater@bhninc.org

**Hampshire or Franklin County**
Collaborative for Educational Services
Sarah Lusardi, Project Coordinator
413.247.4715 phone
413.588.1725 fax
slusardi@collaborative.org

There is no cost to providers or families, and no insurance requirements.