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| **Job Title** | *Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist* |
| **Reports to** | *Montelores Early Childhood Council Coordinator* |

**Purpose**

This position will provide consultation, and coaching/training, and education to families and early learning programs throughout the Montezuma and Dolores Counties. The ECMHS focuses on developing and strengthening the social emotional skills of young children through timely screening and assessment, increasing the parent and the early learning provider's ability to manage difficult behaviors, and providing outreach and connecting families to other community resources.

**Position Requirements**

The ECMH Specialist shall have a license-eligible master’s degree in social work, psychology, or related field with a focus on early childhood mental health. The ECMH Specialist must have skills in relationship building; be sensitive to cultural differences; have enhanced competencies when working with families, children, and staff from various backgrounds; have the appropriate proficiency in developmental screening and assessments; and have a solid clinical foundation in adult mental health and early childhood mental health.

The ECMH Specialist must be endorsed, working towards endorsement or have a plan in place to begin the process to achieve the Endorsement for Culturally‐Sensitive, Relationship Focused Practice Promoting Infant Mental Health® which is issued through the Colorado Association for Infant Mental Health.

**Duties and responsibilities**

• Consult with staff regarding individual children, including providing guidance about challenging behaviors. Consultant will meet regularly with staff and parents to assess and understand the individual needs of the child and work with the team to develop developmentally and culturally appropriate interventions. Consultant will meet regularly with staff to develop and support reflective functioning.

• Observe children in their childcare setting to assess functioning, relationships with caregivers and other children, and “fit” in the program.

• Meet on-site at childcare program with families to complete assessments, provide developmental guidance and referrals. Actively assist families in referral process.

• Meet regularly with the childcare staff and the director to address programmatic concerns, as requested, i.e., inter-staff relations, program-wide concerns/changes, staff turnover, curriculum.

• Provide consultation to center staff on programmatic issues that affect the quality of care provided to the children, as requested.

• Facilitate social/emotional groups for young children.

• Provide psycho-education and support to families/caregivers.

• Maintain accurate and timely documentation in adherence with program expectations and accountability requirements.

• Provide trainings to centers staff and parents on social/ emotional topics.