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TO: *The 15 Minute Mental Health Visit* Teleconference Participants

FROM: Jane M. Foy, MD, Chair, Task Force on Mental Health

RE: TASK FORCE ON MENTAL HEALTH ACTIVITIES

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The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) Board of Directors formed the AAP Task Force on Mental Health (TFOMH) in response to the growing need to address children's mental health concerns in primary care. Though many of the questions raised on the pre-teleconference survey are not addressed directly in the teleconference, we wanted to provide you with a brief overview of what the TFOMH has been working on since their formation. Listed below are various products in development by the TFOMH:

### **The Future of Pediatrics: Mental Health Competencies for the Care of Children and Adolescents in Primary Care Settings**

This policy statement on mental health competencies for primary care clinicians was jointly developed with the AAP Committee on Psychosocial Aspects of Child and Family Health.

### **Improving Mental Health Services in Primary Care: Reducing Administrative and Financial Barriers to Access and Collaboration**

This position paper on administrative and financial barriers to collaborative mental health care was jointly developed with the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and should be helpful to advocacy efforts at the local, regional, and national levels.

### **Guidance for Enhancing Mental Health Services in Primary Care Settings: Community-Level Strategies**

This paper describes approaches to enhancing pediatric mental health services at the community level. Included in this report are models of collaboration involving primary care clinicians, mental health professionals, schools, and youth-serving agencies.

### **Guidance for Enhancing Mental Health Services in Primary Care Settings: Practice-Level Strategies**

This paper suggests incremental steps to enhancing mental health practice in primary care settings, applying medical home and chronic care principles.

### **Clinical Algorithms for Mental Health Care, Birth to 21 Years**

This report serves as a guide for an idealized clinical process of mental health practice in primary care settings. Algorithm 1 represents prevention, early identification, initial assessment, and initial intervention. Algorithm 2 represents further assessment and care of children with identified problems not responsive to initial intervention. Each step of the algorithms will be keyed to the requisite competencies and the procedural codes use to bill

for the activities in that step.

### **Mental Health Clinical Tool Kit**

This tool kit will consist of tools to assist primary care pediatricians with implementation of the process described by the algorithms including screening, diagnosing, and managing mental health conditions in practice.

### ***Strategies for Systems Change in Children's Mental Health: A Chapter Action Kit***

Developed in collaboration with the Department of Community, State, and Chapter Affairs, the *Chapter Action Kit* outlines numerous strategies that AAP chapters can use to improve children's mental health programs and services in their state. This kit is available at [www.aap.org/mentalhealth](http://www.aap.org/mentalhealth).

### **Educational Opportunities**

In addition to this teleconference, there are several educational opportunities that will be offered. These include upcoming sessions at the AAP National Conference and Exhibition (NCE), a teleconference on early childhood mental health, and an online module on Collaborative Models of Mental Health Practice in Primary Care.

If you have any questions about these activities, please feel free to contact Linda Paul at 800/433-9016, ext 7787 ([lpaul@aap.org](mailto:lpaul@aap.org)).

JMF/amh