MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

Mental Health Mondays

**Screening for Risk
Issue 27
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DIVISION OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

What do we know?

People are regularly screened for physical health issues (e.g., vision, hearing, dental) but often behavioral and emotional health issues are only discovered after they become a problem.

To prevent risk and reduce crisis, it is vital to screen regularly for risk indicators and implement targeted interventions for common concerns.

How can you screen for risk?

Data is used to identify when there are potential risks indicators for an individual. For example, some identified risk indicators might be an increase in behavioral incidents or being prescribed additional psychotropics.

A screening process should be aligned to the desired outcomes and should clearly identify the target population, capacity for support, implementation procedures, and data analysis approaches.

How can regular risk screening help?

- Identify individuals at risk for poor outcomes and prevent crisis.
- Identify individuals who may need monitoring or intervention.
- Inform decisions about needed services and supports.
- Proactively using resources and supports effectively and efficiently.
- Assess effectiveness of universal supports.

Want to learn more?

Scan the QR Code with your phone or click here to learn more about using data to screen for risk.

**Interested in a specific topic
or want to contribute to Mental Health Monday content?**
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