

for the proper storage and handling of breast milk and formula.

(The information collection requirements are approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) under OMB Control Number 0970-0148 for paragraph (a).)

[61 FR 57210, Nov. 5, 1996, as amended at 63 FR 2313, Jan. 15, 1998]

**§ 1304.24 Child mental health.**

(a) *Mental health services.* (1) Grantee and delegate agencies must work collaboratively with parents (see 45 CFR 1304.40(f) for issues related to parent education) by:

(i) Soliciting parental information, observations, and concerns about their child's mental health;

(ii) Sharing staff observations of their child and discussing and anticipating with parents their child's behavior and development, including separation and attachment issues;

(iii) Discussing and identifying with parents appropriate responses to their child's behaviors;

(iv) Discussing how to strengthen nurturing, supportive environments and relationships in the home and at the program;

(v) Helping parents to better understand mental health issues; and

(vi) Supporting parents' participation in any needed mental health interventions.

(2) Grantee and delegate agencies must secure the services of mental health professionals on a schedule of sufficient frequency to enable the timely and effective identification of and intervention in family and staff concerns about a child's mental health; and

(3) Mental health program services must include a regular schedule of on-site mental health consultation involving the mental health professional, program staff, and parents on how to:

(i) Design and implement program practices responsive to the identified behavioral and mental health concerns of an individual child or group of children;

(ii) Promote children's mental wellness by providing group and individual staff and parent education on mental health issues;

(iii) Assist in providing special help for children with atypical behavior or development; and

(iv) Utilize other community mental health resources, as needed.

**Subpart C—Family and Community Partnerships**

**§ 1304.40 Family partnerships.**

(a) *Family goal setting.* (1) Grantee and delegate agencies must engage in a process of collaborative partnership-building with parents to establish mutual trust and to identify family goals, strengths, and necessary services and other supports. This process must be initiated as early after enrollment as possible and it must take into consideration each family's readiness and willingness to participate in the process.

(2) As part of this ongoing partnership, grantee and delegate agencies must offer parents opportunities to develop and implement individualized family partnership agreements that describe family goals, responsibilities, timetables and strategies for achieving these goals as well as progress in achieving them. In home-based program options, this agreement must include the above information as well as the specific roles of parents in home visits and group socialization activities (see 45 CFR 1306.33(b)).

(3) To avoid duplication of effort, or conflict with, any preexisting family plans developed between other programs and the Early Head Start or Head Start family, the family partnership agreement must take into account, and build upon as appropriate, information obtained from the family and other community agencies concerning preexisting family plans. Grantee and delegate agencies must coordinate, to the extent possible, with families and other agencies to support the accomplishment of goals in the preexisting plans.

(4) A variety of opportunities must be created by grantee and delegate agencies for interaction with parents throughout the year.

(5) Meetings and interactions with families must be respectful of each family's diversity and cultural and ethnic background.