**Philadelphia Refugee Provider Network: RHS-15 Screening Protocol**

Background

The Refugee Health Screener 15 (RHS-15) was designed by Pathways to Wellness to address a deficit in efficient screening tools to assess for emotional distress across refugee populations.  Pathways to Wellness and other supporters of the refugee screening tools believe that integrating early detection and support for mental health problems into the refugee resettlement, paired with culturally appropriate and effective treatment, reduces resettlement stress and accelerates healing.

*Current Languages Available via the RHS-15:*  Arabic, Amharic, Burmese, English, French, Karen, Nepali, Spanish, Swahili

All Philadelphia Refugee Health Collaborative and Philadelphia Refugee Mental Health Collaborative partners have signed a user agreement with Pathways to Wellness.  For a copy of the user agreement or copies of translated files, please contact Melissa Fogg (melissaf@lcfsinpa.org).

*Scripts and Guidelines for Administering the RHS-15:*

* Full clinical script including English version and a webinar outlining use of the RHS-15 <http://refugeehealthta.org/webinars/mental-health-screening-and-care/tools-and-strategies-for-refugee-mental-health-screening-introducing-the-rhs-15-2/>
* Social service provider script (developed by Nationalities Service Center):  <http://philarefugeehealth.org/?p=2313>

Screening Protocol:

**Adults (over age 18)** if available to screen and consents to screening: Screened by resettlement agencies during the resettlement period. Pathways to Wellness recommends screening at least 30 days after arrival..

* NSC: Screening during month 1 during home visit by Resettlement Case Manager
* LCFS: Screening during month 2 during home visit by Mental Health Social Worker
* HIAS: Screening during month 2 in office; in conjunction with follow up medical care

Many post-resettlement programs are also conducting RHS-15 screening (PPR-NSC, ICM- LCFS, MSS-NSC).

**Children (ages 13 - 18)**: Screened by pediatric clinics between 30 and 90 days after arrival and as necessary every six months subsequent.  Needed referrals can be facilitated by the clinic liaison as appropriate. Potential referrals could include: clinical mental health services or community based mental health services.

Communication of Screening Results with Medical, Mental Health and Social Service Providers:

* Pathways to Wellness recommends repeat screening be offered at no less than six month intervals. If administering the RHS-15 please ensure that the client has not been screened within the last six months by 1) coordinating with referring agencies to determine if the RHS-15 has already been completed and/or 2) asking the client “Have you seen this tool before (showing RHS-15)?”
* Sharing the results of the RHS-15 may be helpful in service planning and service provision.  Results can be helpful whether the individual screened negative or positive.
* Administering agency should complete consent to release with client including discussion of providers that results are to be released to including health provider, mental health provider and/or other social service providers.
  + Mental Health Provider:  The person scheduling the mental health appointment provides a signed consent and the completed tool to the appropriate contact at the mental health provider site.
  + Social Service Provider: The person completing the referral to a refugee social service agency (ex. PPR, ECBO or other) should obtain signed consent to release and include on the referral form whether the RHS-15 was completed, whether RHS-15 was positive or negative and the date of screening.
  + Primary Care Provider:  The administering agency provides a password-protected PDF version of the signed consent and the completed tool to the appropriate clinic liaison via email.  Clinic Liaisons:
    - Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia: Aljahi Saccoh, [asaccoh@hiaspa.org](mailto:asaccoh@hiaspa.org)
    - Einstein Community Practice: Olivia Haywood, [ohaywaood@nscphila.org](mailto:ohaywaood@nscphila.org)
    - Einstein Pediatrics: Olivia Haywood, [ohaywood@nscphila.org](mailto:ohaywood@nscphila.org)
    - Fairmount Primary Care: Olivia Haywood, [ohaywood@nscphila.org](mailto:ohaywood@nscphila.org)
    - Jefferson Family Medicine: Suzanne Block, [sblock@nscphila.org](mailto:sblock@nscphila.org)
    - Nemours Pediatrics: Suzanne Block, [sblock@nscphila.org](mailto:sblock@nscphila.org)
    - Penn Center for Primary Care: Alhaji Saccoh, [asaccoh@hiaspa.org](mailto:asaccoh@hiaspa.org)