By the end of this session students should be able to:

- describe the child welfare and legal setting in which children in foster care are placed
- perform initial medical assessment of child entering foster care and comprehensive medical evaluation of child in foster care
- demonstrate competency with medical literature on issues of children in foster care
- explain the impact of childhood adverse events on health through the lifespan

Course Description

Children in adoptive or foster care homes present with a variety of unique healthcare needs and challenges that providers must take into consideration in their medical practice. This elective is designed to expose interested students to a variety of clinical settings and UMassMemorial faculty that care routinely for these patients.

The basis for this elective is the FaCES (Foster Care Evaluation Services) clinic, which provides a central location for the medical evaluation, coordination, and medical keeping for children in foster care. This is a unique resource that was started in 2003 to serve Central MA. Students will spend 1-2 days with physicians at the FaCES clinic. In addition to FaCES, students will meet regularly with FaCES faculty to discuss readings relevant to the fields of adoption and foster care and partner with other UMass Memorial faculty in their community practices. If time permits, students may also explore relevant community services such as Department of Children and Family (DCF) meetings, court sessions, or foster home visits.

Competencies

Professional, Communicator, Problem Solver, Advocate, Person

Interdisciplinary
No

Interprofessional
No

Prerequisites
It is recommended that students complete their pediatrics rotation prior to this experience.

Evaluation
Attendance, Effort, Participation
Clinical Skills, Case Presentation

Location
Foster Care Evaluation Service (FaCES) Clinic at Benedict Building, 2nd Floor, University Campus

Day One Instructions
This elective will primarily take place at the FaCES clinic on the second floor of the Benedict Building, University Campus. Students may travel to other Worcester and Boston locations during the elective. Students will need to contact Dr. Heather Forkey (heather.forkey@umassmed.edu) prior to their first day to receive instructions for the first day.

Dates & Number of Students

|------|---------------------|------|---------------------|------|---------------------|