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New EFMP to Provide Continuum of Care

HQMC (MR), QUANTICO, VA – A new level of support is being provided to Marines and their families who are enrolled in the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP). A combination of increased resources, additional personnel, and technology has enabled the EFMP to more effectively support enrolled families and provide needed case management services.

According to Lt. Col. Craig Kilhenny, the HQMC branch head for Family Readiness programs, the revitalized EFMP program is no longer focused solely on assignment coordination.

“The new focus is on providing a continuum of care to facilitate a seamless transition from installation to installation,” said Kilhenny. “EFMP staff will work with families on assignment coordination and to resolve medical and educational challenges to achieve the best possible outcomes. Services such as respite care for enrolled families, sponsor informed assignment screening, and family case workers will meet the program’s mission of providing an improved quality of life and a continuum of care.”

Kilhenny added that 50 highly qualified and trained EFMP managers and staff have been hired to support the new continuum of care. New family case workers will assist the family with the oftentimes competing demands of coordinating care for their family and the multiple moves and deployments required of the military lifestyle. The family case worker will help a family find local resources, EFMP respite care, gain appropriate services in a timely manner, recreation opportunities, or assistance in working with local school districts.

Families sometimes face systemic problems, beyond the capability of their family case worker or installation to resolve. An EFMP Advocate and an Attorney Advisor are available to identify and address these systemic issues, inform leadership and recommend policy and legislative changes.

Kilhenny said, “Installation EFMP Training, Education and Outreach Specialists at each installation will conduct Quarterly Family Forums, briefings to commands, and classes for families on a range of topics of interest. They will also work with community/installation stakeholders and service providers to ensure the best possible services are provided to enrolled families.”

For more information about the Exceptional Family Member program you can contact your installation EFMP office or go online at www.usmc-mccs.org/efmp.