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AGENCY SUCCESS Oklahoma Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary

Children First, Oklahoma's Nurse-Family Partnership, was created by state statute in 1996 and funded with state appropriations. In February 1997, four pilot sites with 19 nurses were based in Garfield, Garvin, Muskogee and Tulsa Counties. By October 1998, services were available in all 77 counties.

The celebration commemorating Oklahoma's 10th year implementing the Nurse-Family Partnership program, will culminate in a state-wide conference on March 24-26th, 2008 in Oklahoma City. The conference will include educational sessions, a keynote address by David Olds, and a nurse awards ceremony.

Currently, the county health department staff consists of 170 public health nurses providing home visits, and 28 nurse supervisors. Training, quality assurance, and general consultation is provided to the Children First nurses by Children First program staff out of the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

Oklahoma's Nurse-Family Partnership findings:

- Clients significantly reduce their smoking during pregnancy, have high rates of breastfeeding initiation (70-77%), and higher rates of immunizations than the state average (90-97%).
- The infant mortality rate among clients is approximately half that of other first-time births in the state.

CBS Evening News Features Oklahoma's Nurse-Family Partnership

On August 6th, the CBS News Evening News with Katie Couric aired a compelling piece on Nurse-Family Partnership, including interviews with David Olds and several clients and nurse home visitors from around the country, including Oklahoma.

"You kind of have to change their thinking to 'I can do this,'" says Brooke Fesperman, who teaches everything from bathing to burping - and so much more."

NFP Nurse Home Visitor Brooke Fesperman pictured below, behind the scenes with CBS Evening News Producer Matt Lombardi and cameramen.



Please visit NFP News Center to read full story and view video coverage.

CLIENT SUCCESS Oklahoma Client Pays Tribute to her Nurse Home Visitor

"Dear Freida, today was the last time you will be making the trip to our house as our nurse home visitor. We started off as total strangers but you've become, I feel, like part of our family. You helped me through my pregnancy and through every stage that Ashlynn has gone through, and though our household is anything but stable, you were the one thing Ashlynn and I could completely rely on.

You may not have cured world hunger or even brought peace to nations, but at night when you go home to your family, please know that you have helped and touched our hearts. I want to thank you for always being positive even when I was grumpy or crying, and for your constant encouragement with breastfeeding, potty training, or simply getting out of bed and getting dressed - things that seemed extra challenging, and last, but not least, thank you for listening to the things that no one else cared to hear about. Sometimes just knowing that you were coming is what got me through the day without pulling my hair out.

Could I ever thank you enough? NO! Could I ever tell you how much of a difference you've made in this family's life? Probably not, but I want you to know you'll be missed forever and always hold a very special spot in our hearts." - Laurel



Laurel, Chad and Ashlynn

RESEARCH

Update on National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) Grant

The Winter-Spring 2006 issue of Newslink announced that the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) had awarded a grant to Ruth O'Brien, PhD, RN, FAAN, Professor, School of Nursing at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center, to study how nurses develop competence in implementing Nurse-Family Partnership. Following is an update on that research project submitted by Dr. O'Brien.

Phase one of the study, which started in April 2006, includes interviews with 12 Nurse-Family Partnership Implementing Agencies in California, Colorado, Louisiana and Pennsylvania relative to how staff members translate the formal training received from the National Service Office and the home visit guidelines into their work with families, the challenges they encounter in working with families, the strategies they have found useful in managing those challenges, and their ideas and beliefs about what contributes to their development of competence.

Implementing agency staff members have been extremely cooperative in sharing their experiences, which provide such rich data about the challenges of working with vulnerable families. In the first round of interviews, nurses were asked to share a story about a particularly challenging family where they perceived things were not going well, the strategies they used to try and turn things around, the outcome, and what they learned from the experience.

Dr. O'Brien will be sharing the analysis of this data at the American Public Health Association (APHA) Annual Meeting on November 5, 2007 in Washington, DC. The presentation, *Strategies Used by Public Health Nurses to Manage Challenges Encountered in Serving Vulnerable Populations*, is included in Session 3253.0, Public Health Nursing Research II, beginning at 12:30 p.m.

Phase two of the study includes the collection of information on the social context in which the program operates

and how this facilitates or hinders nurses' development of competence and delivery of the program. The data will be collected from Nurse-Family Partnership Nurse Home Visitors in the four states by a mailed questionnaire, 400 of which have already been mailed. Over 85% of the nurses in Louisiana, the first state to receive the questionnaires, voluntarily completed and returned them, which is a truly phenomenal response rate.

Gratitude goes out to all program staff who have been so willing to help with this study. Findings will be shared when they become available in summer 2008.



Ruth O'Brien,
PhD, RN, FAAN
Professor,
School of Nursing

New Study Commences on Intimate Partner Violence

In June 2007, a new program improvement research project received funding approval by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to develop an intervention to reduce intimate partner violence among Nurse-Family Partnership participants. Dr. Harriet MacMillan, who is a child psychiatrist and pediatrician from McMaster University in Hamilton Ontario, Canada, is the Principle Investigator for the newly funded grant entitled *Development and Evaluation of an Intervention for Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in the Context of Nurse Home Visitation*. Dr. MacMillan has worked closely with Dr. Olds for many years and is a strong advocate of the Nurse-Family Partnership Program. The project has the following two goals:

Goal 1: develop a model of in-home Intimate Partner Violence Intervention (IPVI) for mothers enrolled in Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) exposed to IPV using a qualitative case-control methodology; and test the feasibility and acceptability of the intervention in a small sample of NFP clients and nurses.

Goal 2: conduct a cluster-based randomized controlled design of NFP+IPVI compared with NFP alone, to gather preliminary estimates of the augmented intervention's effect on the NFP client's quality of life and reduction in IPV. Eight implementing agencies have volunteered to participate in the study, and they will begin working with Dr. MacMillan and her team in the fall 2007.

REPORTING & EVALUATION

New Reporting System Coming in 2008

The National Service Office will be enhancing its reporting system in order to facilitate the delivery of more detailed and site-specific quality improvement data and evaluation information to implementing agencies. Input from various individuals from Nurse-Family Partnership Implementing Agencies and partner agencies was gathered to ensure that this collective work results in highly useful products for nurse supervisors and nurse home visitors. The initial products and training will commence in January 2008. This project is underwritten by a grant from **The Picower Foundation**.



NFP Community

The NFP Community is the password-protected portion of the Nurse-Family Partnership website where members only can communicate with other people involved with Nurse-Family Partnership around the country.

A Look at Your Community

Did you know the NFP Community hosts:

- over 850 users
- over 550 nurse home visitors from 23 states
- over 230 new members in 2007
- 22 nurses with the name Mary

RAPComm Offers Guidance for Implementing Agencies Considering Research Projects

In order to assist Nurse-Family Partnership Implementing Agencies in determining whether they are in a position to invest the time, energy and resources needed for successful participation in research activities, the Nurse-Family Partnership Research and Publication Communications Committee (RAPComm) developed a list of questions that should be considered prior to participating in research. The list of questions can be found under [Resources > Knowledge Development > NFP Research > RAPComm > "Suggested Questions That Should Be Asked Before NFP IAs Commit to Participating in a Research Project."](#)

NEW Resources in the Community

- [Education > 2008 Education Calendar](#)
- [Education Unit schedules and descriptions](#)
- [Resources > Marketing > Newsletter Template, Site Fact Sheet Template and Cost Brief](#)
- [More websites added to Supplementary Resources in the Shared Ideas from Nurses > Resources > Professional Development](#)
- [Redesigned homepage with a new section highlighting What's New in the NFP Community](#)

Hot Topics in the Forums

Here's a sample of what nurses are talking about:

- single Dads
- use of interpreters
- what happens when nurses take vacation
- breastfeeding resources
- peer support

Nurse-Family Partnership Education in Action!

Henry comforts a new friend after a fall. Henry helps mom, NFP Nurse Home Visitor Jen Harrison, learn some of the principles taught in the Early Emotional Development online module.



Coming Soon! Emerging Practice Submissions

Look for the first round of Emerging Practice submissions to be posted in the [Resources > Knowledge Development](#) section in September and see what innovations are being developed by your nursing colleagues around the country.

Become a Nurse Educator!

The National Service Office is seeking two Nurse Educator/Consultants. A complete job description can be found on the public side of the website [> About Us > Employment Opportunities](#).

Please note: Membership in the NFP Community is restricted to nurses and other individuals working for NFP Implementing Agencies in the states where the program is currently being delivered. It's now easier and quicker than ever to get started. From the NFP Homepage, click Member Login, and then "Request an account".



Visit the **NFP News Center** at www.nursefamilypartnership.org and click on active links. Following is a brief listing of the most recent NFP coverage:

NFP NEWS CENTER



BREAKING NEWS

August 10, 2007 ■ The Boston Globe (Boston, MA) The Science of Helping Kids

August 6, 2007 ■ CBS Evening News with Katie Couric (New York City, NY) A Partnership for a Brighter Future.

August 6, 2007 ■ Science Provides Compelling Framework for Early Childhood Investment - See summary below

August 5, 2007 ■ The News Tribune (Tacoma, WA) Nurses teach moms how to have better babies

August, 2007 ■ Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine (Chicago, IL) Improving Preschool for Low-Income Children With Programmatic Randomized Controlled Trials, an Editorial by David Olds, Ph.D.

"Home visits improve prenatal health and the quality of caregiving after birth. John Edwards will invest in home visits by registered nurses to low-income new parents, providing matching grants to states to serve 50,000 families. Multiple visits from nurses, with manageable caseloads, to families living at up to twice the poverty line will start during pregnancy and continue through each child's second year. - Senator John Edwards, Democratic Presidential Candidate in a speech on 7.18.07 as posted on www.campaignsandelections.com

"If elected to the White House, Obama said he would also expand a pioneering program called the Nurse-Family Partnership that offers home visits by trained registered nurses to low-income mothers and pregnant women. He said he would expand the program to [serve] 570,000 first-time mothers each year." - Senator Barack Obama, Democratic Presidential Candidate in a speech on 7.19.07 posted on www.blackamericaweb.com

July 19, 2007 ■ David Olds, Ph.D., NFP Program Founder, Provides Testimony to the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Income Security and Family Support

July 11, 2007 ■ CBS KOTV-6 (Tulsa, OK) Children First Oklahoma's Nurse-Family Partnership

July 11, 2007 ■ WHP CBS 21 (Harrisburg, PA) Helping Moms

PUBLICATIONS/REPORTS

Report Provides Compelling Framework for Early Childhood Investments

A new report from the Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University, prepared in response to requests from state policy-makers around the country, was released with bipartisan support at the Annual Meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures in Boston on August 6th. In *A Science Based Framework for Early Childhood Policy: Using Evidence to Improve Outcomes in Learning, Behavior, and Health for Vulnerable Children*, the authors stress the importance of training, quality assurance, monitoring, replicating with fidelity, and using skilled professionals to deliver early childhood programs. The report also states that "the home visiting program with the strongest evidence of success, which has been replicated in multiple settings across the country, is the model introduced by the Nurse-Family Partnership."

For further information about the Center on the Developing Child or the science of early childhood development, please see the full paper, downloadable at www.developingchild.harvard.edu.

GROWTH & LEGISLATION

Nurse-Family Partnership is GROWING, GROWING, GROWING

Texas

Following the passage of legislation in Texas, cosponsored by Senator Florence Shapiro (R-8) and Representative Jerry Madden (R-67), the Health and Human Service Commission in Texas is working closely with Nurse-Family Partnership to do advance outreach to communities throughout the state, preparing them to respond to a *Request for Proposals* later this Fall. The legislature unanimously voted to commit funds to initiate Nurse-Family Partnership services to 2,000 families in 2008!

On July 13th, Rep. Madden visited the National Service Office and shared his insight with staff members on what motivated his advocacy efforts. As Chair of the Corrections Committee, Madden's ultimate goal is to reduce the number of inmates in Texas prisons, and he strongly believes that investments in prevention programs like Nurse-Family Partnership is one of several ways to accomplish this in the long run.



National Service Office staff members: Chris Thornam, Elly Yost, Nancy Kehiayan, Patricia Uris, Rep. Madden, Irene Bindrich, Joan Barrett, Mary Beth Wenger

Maryland

The first Nurse-Family Partnership in the state has officially begun program implementation through the Garrett County Partnership for Children and Families.

Tennessee

Hats off to Tennessee State Senator Diane Black (R-18), Representative John DeBerry (D-90), and Speaker Pro Tempore Lois DeBerry (D-91) for sponsoring and successfully passing legislation in Tennessee that will establish a Nurse-Family Partnership implementation for the first time, which lays the legislative foundation for future program growth.

New Jersey

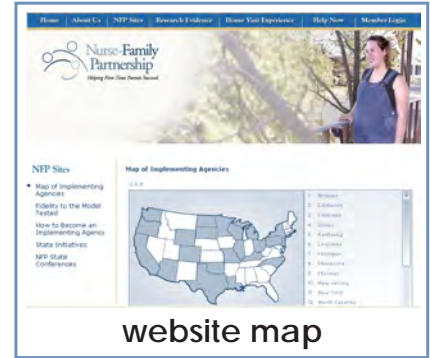
Funding has recently been approved for two new Nurse-Family Partnerships, one at the Northern New Jersey Maternal Child Health Consortium, in Passaic County and one at Youth Consultation Services in Urban Essex. Both are in the process of developing implementation plans.

Louisiana

With the extraordinary commitment of the existing Louisiana Nurse-Family Partnership Nurse Supervisors and state leaders like Joan Wightkin, Paula Zeanah, Cheryl Williams, and Geof Nagle, program services have recently expanded to New Orleans. Future plans include a significant, year-long expansion into parishes not yet served.

New York

Through a new *Request For Proposals* process just completed, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene has funded four agencies to create five new service areas throughout the city, with the capacity to reach 1500 additional clients in the Bronx, Lower East Side of Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. The agencies selected are working on formal applications to have their implementation plans accepted by the National Service Office, and hope to begin serving families later this year.



website map

The National Service Office has recently added several new positions, to help meet its growth objectives of serving 100,000 families across the country by the year 2017.

On August 15, Veronica Creech will join the organization as Southeast Regional Program Developer. From her base in Wilson, North Carolina she will undertake program development in North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and West Virginia.

- Other new hires include:
- Xian Lu, SAS Programmer
 - John Mascarenas, Technical Support
 - Robert Harris, Data Analyst
 - Kimberly Miller, Reporting Specialist

Check out the Employment Opportunities web page for additional vacancies.

Illinois Celebrates Opening of New Nurse-Family Partnership

On April 30th, the United Methodist Children's Home celebrated the addition of Nurse-Family Partnership to its Best Beginnings continuum of services. Serving Marion and Jefferson Counties in southern Illinois, the program will benefit 100 first-time, low-income families. Support for this program was made possible by the generosity of the Illinois State Board of Education and the Ounce of Prevention Fund of Illinois.

Front row (sitting): Krista Payne, Joyce Butts, Jaime Richardson, Vicci Bowerman, and Charity Austin. Back row (standing): Sandy Byers, Kelle Keigley, and Gayla Hall



PUBLIC POLICY

Healthy Children and Families Act - S.1052/H.R. 3024

Despite strong support from Nurse-Family Partnership's lead champions in the U.S. Senate, Senators Ken Salazar (CO) and Arlen Specter (PA), and well-positioned champions in the House of Representatives, Congresswomen Diana DeGette (CO) and Lois Capps (CA) and Congressmen John Salazar (CO) and Timothy Murphy (PA), the SCHIP bills passed by the House and Senate did not include The Healthy Children and Families Act, S.1052/H.R. 3024, which creates a State option to include evidence-based, nurse home visitation services in Medicaid or SCHIP. The bill was apparently stalled in the Senate due to objections raised in the week before the vote to the language that required funded home visitation services to meet rigorous evidentiary standards. Nonetheless, through the combined grassroots and grassroots advocacy to advance S.1052/H.R.3024 in the past months, more progress has been made at the federal level than ever before. This work has laid important groundwork for our continuing federal efforts to maximize Medicaid reimbursement for program services moving forward.

In the coming months, the National Service Office will continue advocacy efforts relative to S. 1052/H.R. 3024, and begin working to attach the bills as amendments to other possible legislative vehicles. For now, many thanks for investing time and effort to secure support for this initiative.

Nurse-Family Partnership is seeking to have S.1052/H.R. 3024 'scored' by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), a process generally required to assess the real costs of any proposed legislation. A preliminary analysis by Julia Isaacs, First Focus Fellow at the Brookings Institution, projects that the costs of this legislation could be offset by expected health care savings to Medicaid /SCHIP of 22.6% over 5 years, and 45.7% over 10 years. These health care savings are related to reductions in pre-term births, emergency room use, and subsequent births.

Medicaid Technical Assistance

The National Service Office is simultaneously strengthening its capacity to work with states and local entities to secure Medicaid reimbursement for program services under existing categories. To that end, Patricia MacTaggart, MMA, MBA, from the George Washington University Medical Center School of Public Health and Health Services, has been contracted to provide consultation services to states around Medicaid operational issues. Patricia was previously the Medicaid Director for Minnesota, and also worked for the federal Health Care Financing Administration (now called the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services) and Health Management Associates.

FY 2008 Budget Request - \$10.38 Million

Nurse-Family Partnership's solicited proposal to the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) was included in the President's FY08 Budget, which proposed \$10.38M for replication and expansion under ACF, marking the first time Nurse-Family Partnership has been recognized in the federal budget. In June, both the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations included the \$10.38M for evidence-based, nurse home visit programs in their recommendations for the FY08 budget. This is a positive outcome to date, but the process - and advocacy efforts - will continue until the bill is signed into law. With both the House and Senate Committees including this in their mark-up, it is likely to be included in the final Conference Committee Report, which will take place sometime between September-December 2007. If appropriations are provided for the \$10.38M, then grants will likely be made in summer/fall 2008.

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Additionally, we acknowledge our partners, Dr. David Olds and the Prevention Research Center at the University of Colorado at Denver and Health Sciences Center (PRC); The National Center for Children, Families & Communities (NCCFC); Invest in Kids (IIK); and Public/Private Ventures (P/PV).