



CEO COLUMN

Dear Friends,

As the end of 2010 nears, I look back on a remarkable year in which Congress took the historic step of investing in home visitation for America's most vulnerable families. Just as we invest in education for children from Early Head Start to college, we now have a dedicated federal funding stream that invests in helping young families learn responsible parenting and healthy behaviors beginning in pregnancy. The creation of the federal Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program is a milestone that will long be remembered.

And, while we are proud that Nurse-Family Partnership was able to significantly contribute to this success, I want to acknowledge that many, many people made this possible. Our colleagues in other home visitation programs stood by us in this push for funding, as did many leading organizations in the healthcare world. Elected officials on both sides of the aisle in Congress have long supported Nurse-Family Partnership. Their leadership steered the passage of this historic evidence-based federal home visiting program.

continued on pg 2

IN THIS ISSUE...

National News.....	2
Client Success.....	2
Board News.....	3
Research News.....	3
State News.....	4
News about our Friends.....	5
Nursing.....	5
Donor News.....	5
Public Policy.....	6

TOP STORY

AT THE CENTER OF NFP PROGRAM QUALITY

“Change can be positive and challenging all at the same time,” says Gayle Rieland, Nurse-Family Partnership State Nurse Consultant for Minnesota. Rieland should know. She’s serving on the team that is leading a significant change for Nurse-Family Partnership in its capabilities to record, assess and manage program quality performance.

The quality initiative was simply stated: to develop a new data collection and management system that will bring substantial value to agencies implementing the Nurse-Family Partnership program. But the work to achieve that goal has not been simple or quick. To do it right, a cross-functional team led by the National Service Office with participation by NFP implementing agencies has spent more than a year working on the improved data solution. The all-new system – known as Efforts to Outcomes (ETO™) software – is scheduled to be operational by the end of the year.

The data system upgrade comes at a key time, as states look to implement or expand evidence-based programs like Nurse-Family Partnership, thanks to the newly enacted federal home visitation program. The federal program requires evidence of outcomes for sustained funding, and the ETO system allows agencies and states to accurately track their performance.

Every Nurse-Family Partnership implementing agency will use the new system to record data on every nurse home visit, and the National Service Office will use it for enhanced quality performance reporting and quality assurance in its collaboration with agencies. ETO is designed for scalability as Nurse-Family Partnership expands with more programs across the country.

The insights from colleagues who serve in a variety of NFP agency roles across the nation helped steer the project, says Molly O’Fallon, NFP’s director of Program Quality. “Their insights were crucial to the success in developing this cornerstone of quality assurance in fidelity to the NFP model. They helped ensure we are ready as the federal program allows states to expand proven home visiting programs.”

As Rieland says, “ETO will provide agencies with new capabilities that are focused on the client and the nurse home visitor caseload, allowing us to communicate our program’s impact and value to our communities. It is an example of a very positive change.”



Representatives from NFP Implementing Agencies across the country teamed up with the National Service Office on the development of the new ETO system.

NATIONAL NEWS

NFP REPORTS GROWTH IN THIRD QUARTER

Nurse-Family Partnership welcomed eight new implementing agencies in the third calendar quarter of 2010 (July-September). Nurse-Family Partnership services will soon be available to families in and near:

- Escondido, California (Agency: County of San Diego - North Inland)
- Oceanside, California (Agency: County of San Diego - North Coastal)
- San Diego, California (Agency: County of San Diego - North Central)
- San Diego, California (Agency: County of San Diego - Central)
- Santa Rosa, California (Agency: Sonoma County Health Services)
- Anoka, Minnesota (Agency: Anoka County Community Health & Environmental Svcs.)
- Long Prairie, Minnesota (Agency: Morrison-Todd-Wadena Community Health Board)
- Minneapolis, Minnesota (Agency: Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency)

STRENGTHENING INCLUSIVITY TO STRENGTHEN THE PROGRAM

Nurse-Family Partnership has always served a diverse population of first-time families. To serve them well, we must be intentional about our diversity and cultural competency, says NFP President and Chief Executive Officer Thomas R. Jenkins, Jr. “As welcoming as we believe our organization is, we are doing the deliberate work to strengthen inclusivity as a means to strengthen the program.”

The comprehensive inclusivity initiative is based on a respected framework developed by The Denver Foundation and will be guided by Nita Mosby-Henry of The Kaleidoscope Project. The work begins with understanding what inclusivity and diversity mean, then analyzing the organization’s strengths and weaknesses, developing a blueprint for success, and finally, working to ensure continuous improvement as an inclusive organization.

“From NFP nurses to our Board of Directors, we are all involved,” says Jenkins. “Inclusivity is about being a learning organization, one that values perspectives and contributions from all people, and incorporates the perspectives and needs of the people and communities we serve into the services we provide.”

CLIENT SUCCESS

ANTOINETTE’S STORY

Vickie Ghent has been a nurse for 30 years, including 10 years serving as a missionary in Papua New Guinea. Today, she works for the Nurse-Family Partnership in Dallas, helping low-income, first-time mothers cope with all the challenges of raising a baby. You might think that her work in Texas is a far cry from her experiences in the bush, but Ghent will be the first to tell you: nothing could have prepared her better.



Antoinette and her family

In fact, Ghent feels particularly attuned to all the obstacles faced by low-income families in America today. They don’t have the time (or often the land) to grow their own food, so they have to buy it. They have to pay for transportation because their daily tasks go well beyond the walking-distance boundaries of a small village. They must also pay for electricity, housing, health care and other basic needs. And all of this becomes even more complicated and expensive when they have another mouth to feed.

Antoinette, pregnant at 18, personifies the young women for whom these simple basics are truly obstacles, and she was one of Ghent’s earliest clients. When she discovered

she was pregnant, Antoinette was scared and had few places to turn for help. To read her story, go to www.nursefamilypartnership.org > First-Time Moms > Stories from moms.

LETTER FROM THE CEO

continued from pg 1

At Nurse-Family Partnership, we know that securing the investment is just the beginning. Our job as 2011 draws near is to be ready to serve states that obtain federal funds for home visiting and to be ready to scale our program to meet the tremendous need in communities across the country. We have been building our own infrastructure for several years to be ready for this moment – and we are. One example of that is the page one story on Nurse-Family Partnership’s new data system, launching soon. This system will ensure that we are responsive with high quality, measurable outcomes to multiple constituencies, including the agencies that implement Nurse-Family Partnership across the country, as well as those that helped us get to this moment and to whom we are accountable.

Throughout Nurse-Family Partnership, we have developed, and continue to refine, the systems and processes that will ensure our readiness to serve our agencies, nurses, families, communities and supporters. It is our privilege to do so.



Thomas R. Jenkins, Jr.
President
& CEO



Find us on Facebook and Twitter

BOARD NEWS

NFP DIRECTOR ONE OF “MOST POWERFUL” IN HEALTHCARE

Dr. Beverly Malone, the CEO of National League for Nursing and a member of the NFP Board of Directors, was named one of the “100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare” by *Modern Healthcare* magazine. It is her first inclusion on the premier list, on which she is ranked #29.

“As leader of the premier nursing education organization in the country, Beverly is a powerful voice in healthcare,” says Robert Hill, chairman, Nurse-Family Partnership Board of Directors. “We are very fortunate to have her guidance and we are proud of this well-deserved recognition for her.”

This year’s list is topped by President Barack Obama and includes many people who spearheaded implementation of the 2010 healthcare reform legislation. Other notable names on the list are U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates.



Dr. Beverly Malone named one of healthcare’s “most powerful.”

HANSELMAN JOINS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brett Hanselman, an Audit Partner in the Denver office of KPMG LLP, has joined the Nurse-Family Partnership Board of Directors. She will serve on the Board’s Finance Committee. “Brett brings exceptional financial acumen to our board and organization,” says Thomas R. Jenkins, Jr., president and CEO. “Her audit and risk advisory experience will help NFP remain financially strong and best prepared for our future growth plans.”

Hanselman’s experience spans more than 17 years and includes financial and compliance audits, performance improvement and consulting services for nonprofits, educational institutions, corporations, healthcare organizations and government on the federal, state and local levels.



Brett Hanselman becomes 14th member of the NFP Board of Directors.

NFP DIRECTOR PENS ARTICLE ON BREASTFEEDING

NFP Board member Karen Hendricks, director of Policy Development for Trust for America’s Health, reviewed how the recent healthcare reform legislation can help increase breastfeeding rates in the October 2010 edition of *Breastfeeding Medicine*. Also in the same journal, Deborah Kaplan, MPH, Assistant Commissioner at the New York City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene, wrote on efforts to increase breastfeeding rates in New York City, citing NFP as a strategy.



Karen Hendricks published in healthcare journal.

RESEARCH NEWS

NEW RESEARCH FINDINGS ON NFP “SIGNIFICANT”

An independent study of the Nurse-Family Partnership program in Pennsylvania has found that NFP has had significant effects on increasing birth intervals (a.k.a. pregnancy spacing, or the length of time between first and second child births) in communities across the state. The analysis was conducted by David Rubin, MD, and colleagues at PolicyLab: Center to Bridge Research, Practice and Policy at The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, using data provided by 23 NFP implementing agencies in Pennsylvania.

In both 2004 and 2005, Pennsylvania NFP clients had significantly fewer second child births within two years of their first child, compared to similar women in the same communities, Rubin and his team found. This was especially true among clients younger than age 18. While this difference was seen between NFP clients and non-clients across the state, it was twice as pronounced in rural communities compared to urban areas. The researchers point out that other home visitation programs have rarely, if ever, demonstrated any significant program outcomes in rural settings.

Increasing the interval between first and second births is an important public health outcome because the amount of time between pregnancies has a strong effect on the health of children. Other research has found that babies born within 27 months of their older siblings are more likely to die or to have health and developmental problems compared to those born with larger intervals between births (Conde-Agudelo et al., *JAMA*, 2006).

The PolicyLab report is one of the first independent analyses of NFP clients versus comparison subjects in a statewide, multi-site setting. The Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare funded the study, which appeared in the Nov. 1 issue of the peer-reviewed *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, a *JAMA/Archives* journal.

STATE NEWS NFP AGENCIES CELEBRATE 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARIES

Many Nurse-Family Partnership Implementing Agencies across the country are celebrating 10 years of service in 2010. We have been acknowledging these agencies in past issues and today we congratulate:

- Kane Kares NFP, Aurora, Illinois - implemented by the Kane County Health Department
- Larimer County NFP, Fort Collins, Colorado - implemented by the Larimer County Department of Health and Environment
- Riverside County NFP, Riverside, California - implemented by Riverside County
- Berrien County NFP, Benton Harbor, Michigan - implemented by the Berrien County Health Department
- NFP Louisiana Capital Area Human Services District, Baton Rouge, Louisiana - implemented by Region 2 Capitol Area Human Services

ONE YEAR MILESTONE FOR PITT COUNTY, NC

Pitt County, N.C., health officials commemorated their first year of NFP service with a roundtable discussion led by N.C. Lt. Governor Walter Dalton, Brad Wilson, chairman of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Foundation, and representatives from the Pitt County NFP program.

“It was encouraging to hear from Pitt County on the ways Nurse-Family Partnership is having a real impact on this community,” says Dalton. “The results from this program’s thorough research and the outcomes generated is a clear reason why Nurse-Family Partnership works and should be embraced by communities across the state.”

The Pitt County Health Department enrolled its first client in June 2009 and is responsible for implementing NFP. It employs four NFP nurse home visitors and a nurse supervisor. To date, the site has served 92 clients and welcomed 27 babies. The program currently operates in nine other North Carolina counties.



(L to R): Dr. John Morrow, Pitt County Health Department Health Director, Lt. Governor Walter Dalton and Brad Wilson.



GIFT OF LIFE NFP HOSTS BABY BLAST

The Gift of Life Nurse-Family Partnership (GOL-NFP) held a Baby Blast at the First Baptist Church Youth Center in downtown Montgomery, Alabama, to recognize the accomplishments of clients actively enrolled in the program for a year and a half or longer. First-time moms and their babies, ranging in age from 9-15 months, along with nurse home visitors, care coordinators and other GOL staff attended the event where each mother was presented with a certificate of recognition by her nurse.

STATEN ISLAND NFP CLIENT RECEIVES AWARD

The NFP agency in Staten Island, N.Y., managed by Richmond Home Need Services, Inc., held their first client graduation ceremony on October 21. Clients were individually recognized for their efforts in areas such as breastfeeding, timeliness and perseverance. Local donor Mrs. Rosemarie Klingele provided graduates with copies of the children’s book, “Oh! The Places You’ll Go!” by Dr. Seuss. She also funded a \$100 achievement award which was given to Michline Haggiag in recognition of her commitment to secure her GED despite many obstacles. Haggiag plans to use the award toward her goal of becoming a nurse when she starts college this spring. The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene oversees this site and eight other NFP offices serving the five boroughs of New York City.



(L to R): Stephanie Klingele, Rosemarie Klingele, Graduate/ Award Recipient Michline Haggiag, Nurse Home Visitor Denise Flynn and Nurse Supervisor/ Program Director Jo-Ellen Brunnigan.

NEWS ABOUT OUR FRIENDS

STRONG VOICES FOR FAMILIES

- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Senior Vice President Dr. James S. Marks lauded NFP in a paper for the First Focus organization, and called for improved Congressional Budget Office scoring of prevention programs like Nurse-Family Partnership.
- Dr. Philip Scribano of Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus, Ohio, wrote "Prevention Strategies in Child Maltreatment" for the October 2010 issue of *Current Opinion in Pediatrics*, saying NFP has shown "consistently positive results" regarding child abuse and neglect prevention.
- NFP Program Manager Cynthia Suire, DNP, MSN, RN (of the Louisiana Office of Public Health) and NFP Evaluator Lindsay Senter, MPH (of the New York City Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene) made presentations at the American Public Health Association annual meeting in Denver in November. Suire's research examined quality improvement strategies among NFP sites in Louisiana, while Senter examined contraception use and teen pregnancy trends among NFP clients in New York City.

These articles and journals can be found at www.nursefamilypartnership.org > About > News > Journals and reports.

Receive NewsLink via email! Sign up at
www.nursefamilypartnership.org/newsletter

SUPPORT NFP THIS GIVING SEASON

Nurse-Family Partnership's national expansion is supported by generous donors. Every gift helps the National Service Office bring NFP to more communities and more vulnerable young moms and their babies.

As you consider your charitable contributions for 2010, please consider giving to Nurse-Family Partnership, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit. Donating is easy online at www.nursefamilypartnership.org or via mail (instructions on our website). Each gift means the most proven home visiting program can help more families. Ken Berger, the CEO of Charity Navigator, points to NFP as a program with real results that donors care about in the November 1 edition of U.S. News & World Report.



New upgrades to the NFP website make it easy to donate online and to share your passion for the program through Facebook or Twitter, if you like. Make a difference by donating today.

Come by and see us at the Zero to Three
Conference in Phoenix, Arizona,
December 9-11, 2010

NURSING

KUDOS TO NFP NURSES

We are always delighted when someone we have counted on as a visionary and constant advocate for Nurse-Family Partnership receives national recognition from within their own profession. Several NFP Nurses, Supervisors and Administrator have recently been recognized:

Joan Wightkin, Dr.PH, MPH, our friend and the director of maternal and child health for Louisiana, recently received the prestigious Director's



Joan Wightkin honored by federal agency.

Award from the federal Bureau of Maternal and Child Health at the Bureau's 75th Anniversary Celebration in Washington, D.C.

Wightkin was instrumental in launching the first NFP site in Louisiana in 1999 and has been steadily assuring its expansion throughout the state.

[Editor's note: Joan will be retiring in January of 2011, and we will greatly miss her inspiration and guiding hand.]

Linette Johnson, NFP supervisor, was recognized as Wyoming's Champion for Maternal and Child Health, also at the Bureau of Maternal and Child Health at the Bureau's 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Ann Irvin, NFP supervisor at the Northwest Colorado Visiting Nurse Association, was honored in August for 25 years of service.

Cynthia Suire, NFP program manager for Louisiana, was so inspired by her work with Nurse-Family Partnership that she recently completed her Doctorate in Nursing.

PUBLIC POLICY

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL CHAMPIONS

Following similar events on Capitol Hill over the summer, Nurse-Family Partnership officials gave NFP leadership awards to U.S. Senators and Representatives in their home districts during the fall congressional recess to thank them for their support of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visitation Program. California Rep. Henry Waxman was honored at his Los Angeles office, co-sponsored by the L.A. County Department of Public Health; Colorado Rep. Diana DeGette was lauded in Denver, co-sponsored by Denver Health and Invest In Kids; Michigan Sen. Debbie Stabenow received her award in Benton Harbor, Michigan, co-sponsored by the Berrien County Health Department; and N.J. Sen. Robert Menendez was celebrated in his Newark office, co-sponsored by Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey. For a complete list of elected officials who have been honored, read the NFP press release at www.nursefamilypartnership.org > About > News > News releases.



New Jersey Senator Robert Menendez (center) with Nurse-Family Partnership and Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey officials.



Michigan Senator Debbie Stabenow



(L. to R): Robert F. Hill, NFP Board Chairman, Colorado Congresswoman Diana DeGette and Dr. Patricia Gabon, CEO of Denver Health.



(L. to R): Sam Chan, District Chief, Youth and Family Bureau, L.A. County Department of Mental Health; Jonathan Freedman, Chief Deputy Director, L.A. County Department of Public Health; Trinh Hartney, NFP Program Developer; California Congressman Henry Waxman; Alex Morales, President & CEO, Children's Bureau of Southern California; Jeanne Smart, Program Administrator, NFP Los Angeles.

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www.nursefamilypartnership.org

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