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Texas Launches Nine Nurse-Family Partnership Sites

DENVER, CO (July 2, 2008) – The Texas Health and Human Services Commission has announced the expansion of Nurse-Family Partnership in nine Texas communities. Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) is a nationally recognized, evidence-based community health program serving low income, first time mothers. This grows the NFP program in Texas from the existing Dallas site currently serving 100 families to 10 sites that will serve approximately 2,000 families each year beginning Sept. 1, 2008. The Texas Nurse-Family Partnership effort represents one of the largest state expansions in the national program's history.

“We are grateful to the state legislature for funding the expansion of this proven program and to John Castle at the Dallas Community Foundation for originally seeing the potential of the Nurse-Family Partnership in Texas. John helped fund and enlisted others to fund the inaugural site implemented by the YWCA of Metropolitan Dallas,” said Tom Jenkins, president and chief executive officer, Nurse-Family Partnership. “I feel confident that this new investment will generate benefits not only to the most vulnerable families in Texas, but also to the health, criminal justice, education and social service systems. Our goal is to improve the lives of many more Texas families with NFP.”

Nurse-Family Partnership is a voluntary prevention program providing nurse home visitation services to low income, first-time mothers. Nurses begin home visits early in the mother's pregnancy and continue visitation through the child's second year. Nurses provide support, education and counseling on health, behavioral and self-sufficiency issues.

More than 30 years of research on NFP show consistent results in improved prenatal care, fewer subsequent pregnancies, increased maternal education and employment, improved school readiness by the child, decreased childhood injuries and decreased criminal convictions.

Independent analyses has shown that communities benefit socially and financially when they invest in NFP; the RAND Corporation calls Nurse-Family Partnership “a wise choice” that has favorable economic return to communities of \$5.70 for every public dollar spent on the program.

The nine Texas sites selected during a rigorous process for NFP implementation are in Austin, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Lubbock, Port Arthur and Tarrant County. The existing Dallas site will expand to serve 200 families.

“This effort is the culmination of hard work and collaboration among many people, including Commissioner Hawkins, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst, State Senator Florence Shapiro, State Representative Jerry Madden, TexProtects, led by Madeline McClure, as well as countless community and civic leaders across the state who are committed to proven, prevention-focused programs,” said Jenkins.

Nurse-Family Partnership has been praised by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice, the Office of the Surgeon General, the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health, the Brookings Institution and many others. Currently, Nurse-Family Partnership serves more than 22,000 families annually. It's estimated that there are 88,000 eligible first-time mothers in Texas and 650,000 in the U.S. that would benefit from the program.

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About Nurse-Family Partnership

The Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office (www.nursefamilypartnership.org) is committed to producing enduring improvements in the health and well being of low-income, first-time parents and their children by helping communities implement and sustain an evidence-based program of home visiting by registered nurses. It is the most rigorously tested program of its kind. Randomized, controlled trials conducted over 30 years demonstrate multi-generational outcomes that benefit society economically and reduce long-term social service expenditures. Nurse-Family Partnership is headquartered in Denver, Colorado.