

Office of Public Health
Report to the DD Council
September 21, 2014

Children's Special Health Services continues its services through the **Family Resource Center** at Children's Hospital. From June-August 2014 they provided 167 client encounters in the FRC and in Botox, spasticity, muscular dystrophy and neuromuscular clinics and in the inpatient rehab unit. The third rehabilitation conference was held July 10 for staff of the hospital. The theme of this conference was family support organizations. Families Helping Families of Orleans Parish and Jefferson Parish participated in a telephone skit illustrating the various services FHF offers. The conference was well attended and well received.

The **Transportation Assistance Program** provided stipends to 86 families in regions 4,6,7,8 and 9 from June-August 2014. Stipends totaled \$12,037.66.

Care Coordination in academic practices wrapped up in June, however the care coordinator supervisor continues to provide updated resource information to all practices that have implemented the CSHS care coordination model. The meeting with Dr. Rebecca Gee that was planned as part of the Action Learning Collaborative through the Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) to collaborate in enhancing care coordination in pediatric practices has been postponed until October. The CSHS program is in the process of analyzing the outcome data from the care coordination practices for a possible publication and AMCHP workshop on care coordination.

8 HDC Webinars on caring for children with special health care needs funded by the DD Council are almost complete. We are very excited about this collaborative project that will offer CME to physicians, nurses and social workers. Four of the topics will be offered as in person trainings for pediatric practices and in-services for nurses and social workers. The first training will be in Shreveport for 75 LSU nurses and social workers. These will be conducted by the CSHS Statewide Nurse Care Coordinator Supervisor in collaboration with the psychologist from HDC.

Resource Information Workshops in each region have ended, however the model will be revised to take advantage of large scale outreaches to provide RIW sessions that include families in addition to state and regional agency staff. The first event will be October 9 during the Families Helping Families at the Crossroads Education Conference in Pineville, LA. The agenda will include guest speakers on educational

issues and 10-15 presentations by State agencies. Community agencies will have an opportunity to present from their booths.

The RIW model was presented at the Title V Block Grant Review in Dallas in August. The AMCHP representative invited us to submit this as a “best practice” model to share with other states for their annual conference in Washington DC in January.

The La Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (LaCLPPP) has been awarded a 3 year \$293,000 per year CDC Childhood Lead Surveillance Grant. In Louisiana, soil especially in urban areas of the state is still highly contaminated with lead from years of peeling paint from older homes. Children in urban areas of the state are disproportionately affected by lead poisoning. A recent survey of physicians in Orleans Parish reveals that most are not aware of the need to screen for lead in all children, and many did not think that their patients were at risk. This grant will improve the detection of lead poisoning so that appropriate preventive and treatment measures can be taken. The program is waiting to hear about a second grant, the HUD Lead Based Paint Hazard Control Grant, to assist with abatement when a child with an elevated lead level is identified.

October 19th – 25 is Lead Poisoning Prevention Week. The program is planning many educational and fun activities including a Walk Around the Superdome to raise lead awareness that Wednesday at noon. Watch out for other activities in your area of the state!

The LA Birth Defects Monitoring Network (LBDMN) has received a one year extension in funding from CDC before the new funding cycle begins. The program has succeeded in achieving web-based statewide surveillance, and is still in the process of integrating hospital record data with vital statistics data through LEERS. Finalization of this enhancement is still pending vital records approval for the \$25,000 contract. In the new funding cycle, the program will shift its focus to prevention campaigns. Regional analysis of the statewide data will help to identify areas with increased congenital conditions which could potentially be associated with environmental factors or issues associated with prenatal care, for example. This knowledge can help focus prevention efforts to higher risk areas of the state. The program shares its data with Environmental Public Health Tracking, which is currently geo-mapping the 2008-2010 data. The program hopes to partner with the Bureau of Family Health to enhance health education efforts in the new grant cycle.

October is Spina Bifida Prevention Month! LBDMN partners with the Spina Bifida Association of Greater New Orleans to distribute educational information about the importance of folic acid before and during pregnancy, and good prenatal care.

The Hearing, Speech and Vision Program plans to go live with its web-based software program for newborn hearing screening results on September 28. Audiologists who do follow-up testing for infants who fail their newborn screen will be instructed in how to enter their results over several months. Providers who need to access newborn screening results will be educated on accessing the link after any initial system issues have been resolved. The system will work much like the LINKS system which permits health providers to access and input vaccine records.

The Vision Program contracts with the LA Lions Cubsight Program to provide vision screening for toddlers in daycares, headstarts, and preschools using photo-screening. The program contracts separately for a vision specialist who trains school nurses to do vision screening using Titmus testing.