

Volume 12
July 2010



NFP Partners for Healthy Families Jeffco F.I.T. Coalition

A Coalition for Families with Infants & Toddlers

Jefferson County, Colorado



Become a Member!

Please call
Amy Guccione
303-239-7074

UPCOMING EVENT:

The next F.I.T.
Coalition Meeting:

Tues. Sept. 14, 2010
2:30-4:30 pm

JC Courts & Administration
Lakewood Conference Room

5th Floor
100 Jefferson County Pkwy
Golden CO 80419

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Kids and Cavity Protection-Dental Caries

Amber Zaino RN-Public Health Nurse

Dental caries is the most common chronic childhood disease, even though it is preventable. It is largely a disease of poverty with 80 percent of the disease in 20 percent of the population. Once established, dental caries requires costly treatment. Poor children have nearly 12 times more restricted-activity days because of dental related illness than children from higher income families. Dental disease affects children's ability to eat properly, grow, attend school and learn. Consistent oral care and regular dental visits as soon as teeth are present will help reduce dental caries.

A child's risk for dental caries can also be affected by maternal dental health. The Surgeon General recommends that mothers receive dental treatment during pregnancy because good oral health during pregnancy is important for the health of the mother and baby. Some dentists are concerned about treating pregnant women because they are worried about fetal safety. Such concerns appear to be unfounded. Studies show that dental care during pregnancy is safe, effective, and is a

recommended treatment for prenatal health.

Preventing dental caries and promoting oral health is important for both mothers and their children. Children and pregnant women can often access dental assessments and care through no cost programs like Cavity Free @ 3. They can also seek out treatment at a regular dental home with the help of their insurance provider.

For more information about the Cavity Free @ 3 program in Jefferson County please contact Amber Zaino at

303-239-7059. For residents outside of Jefferson County who would like more information about Cavity Free @ 3 please contact Karen Savoie at

303-724-4750.



New Medicaid and CHP+ Expansions

Effective May 1, 2010

Christy Trimmer, MPH

As of May 1, 2010, almost 70,000 more Coloradans are eligible for Medicaid and Child Health Plan *Plus* (CHP+). This expansion is a result of the Colorado Health Care Affordability Act that was passed in 2009.

CHP+ eligibility for children and pregnant women increased from 205% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to 250% FPL, or about \$55,000 for a family of four. The eligibility for parents with a dependent child on Medicaid increased from 60% FPL to 100% FPL, or \$22,056 for a family of four. The people covered by these expansions will receive the same benefits as clients currently enrolled in Medicaid and CHP+. View a revised chart with income guidelines for [Medicaid and CHP+](#).

A faulty interpretation in federal eligibility rules has resulted in some problems with the Medicaid expansion for parents. The incorrect interpretation of eligibility rules required everyone in the household (parents or

care-taker relatives and dependent children) to apply for Medicaid, including those who are not eligible.

Correct interpretation of eligibility rules for Medicaid parent expansion: All household members **ARE NOT REQUIRED** to apply for benefits. There must be at least one Medicaid-eligible dependent child in the household for the parent to qualify for Medicaid.

The computer system that determines eligibility for Medicaid was programmed with the incorrect interpretation of the eligibility rules and is currently terminating or denying any parents in two-parent households where one of the parents did not apply for Medicaid. Currently, the computer program is not scheduled to be fixed until at least August.

The computer system error resulted in 2,698 parents being improperly dropped from Medicaid on June 1. In addition, parents submitting new

applications with only one parent applying for Medicaid will also be incorrectly denied by the computer system. Applicants and clients who have been improperly denied or terminated from Medicaid must take a letter to their doctor to provide proof that they are enrolled in Medicaid.

If you have any a client with problems due to the Medicaid Parents Expansion, please contact Sandy Sanchez at the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing at 303-866-2823 or sandra.sanchez@state.co.us

Please be on the lookout for parents who might be impacted by this issue.

We'll be with you as you become the woman you dream to be

Jennifer Fields, CNM



In Colorado 12 percent of the teens who become pregnant every year live in the neighborhoods immediately surrounding St. Anthony Central Hospital. Our teen pregnancy program, Bloom, is dedicated to providing loving care to this vulnerable population. The goals of Bloom include providing excellent prenatal care with improved clinical outcomes such as decreased preterm and low birth weight births. We also work with schools and community resources to

support the teens in the pursuit of their life goals.

Pregnant teens have a double challenge of negotiating a pregnancy and entering the adult world. Often they are isolated from their peers, afraid and confused. Bloom provides a safe environment of caring. These young women find inspiration and support by meeting with others who are experiencing similar challenges in group prenatal sessions called

Centering Pregnancy. Nurse Family Partnership provides home visits to support the family through the infant's second birthday. Community resources such as Fatherhood Support Services encourage young fathers to become involved and prepare for the role of being a dad.

Other community partners offer information and support for everything from adoption counseling to food and

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shelter resources.

Bloom's incentive program allows us to provide gifts to the participants to celebrate achievements and reward regular prenatal care. A lending library offers books and videos about birth and parenting. We can also help teens apply for Medicaid.

Teen pregnancy presents a major obstacle in the life of a young woman, however it needn't prevent

her from reaching her full potential. At St. Anthony Central we believe in hope and strive to support the dreams of every teen we serve. Call for an appointment or for more information:
303-595-6550.



Jefferson County Public Health . . . Find us on:



NFP Partners for Healthy Families Outcomes August 2000-March 2010

- Total referrals: 3,133
- Total families served: 943
- Completed visits: 21,947



**Total Number of Jefferson County
graduates 242**



Coalition Updates

Highlights of the CO NFP State Meeting and
Tenth Anniversary Celebration in June

SAC NFP and NFP Partners For Healthy Families (PFHF) participated in the NFP Nurse Practice Council nurses' session, Ideas for Adapting the NFP Model: Use of the "new" facilitators. SAC role played a home visit on Diapering to a low-literacy client, and PFHF role played Promoting Infant Sleep to a high-literacy client and her husband. PFHF also displayed their program poster, and two teaching boxes, Nutrition and Contraception Choices.

Courtney's Retirement Celebration

Courtney Thomas and Michelle Neal of Invest in Kids provide nurse consultation to CO NFP supervisors throughout the state. Courtney is retiring June 30.
Thank you, Courtney

PFHF

Cynthia Farkas, NFP Nurse Supervisor is retiring July 2. Amy Guccione of JCPH has accepted this position, effective July 6. Amy is currently supervising Prenatal Plus, Health Care Program with Special Needs (HCP), and several other Maternal Child Health Programs.

SAC NFP welcomes Courtney Sheffield, RN, who joined their team on June 7.

Broomfield Health & Human Services now offers Prenatal Plus to Medicaid clients who are pregnant and at risk. For more information, contact Faith Eggleston, Nurse Administrator at 720-887-2212.

Partners for Healthy Families

Jefferson County Colorado

Amy Guccione, Program Supervisor

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Nurse-Family Partnership is an evidence-based, nurse home visitation program that improves the health, well-being and self-sufficiency of low-income, first-time parents and their children.

This Nurse-Family Partnership Implementing Agency is part of a growing national initiative supported by the Nurse-Family Partnership National Service Office, located in Denver, Colorado. Currently the program is serving clients in 31 states across the nation.

For more information, please go to www.nursefamilypartnership.org or

Call 1-866-864-5226

F.I.T. Newsletter is a biannual electronic newsletter produced by JCPH! Editions will be emailed to you. Please call or send us your email address and website url so that we can include a link on the web page: 303-239-7074 or Email: aguccion@jeffco.us

<http://health.jeffco.us>

Contact Us . . . Coalition Members

Bridgeway Home

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Denver Indian Family Resource Center

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Invest in Kids

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Early Childhood Connections @ DDRCC

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Jefferson Center for Mental Health

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Jeffco Child Find

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Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH)

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JCPH WIC

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Jefferson County Human Services

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Mommy Rocks

Deb Sanders – 303-601-8421

information@mommyrocks.org

Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS)

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Parent Partnership

Carol Ceelen – 303-989-2293

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Part C/NICU Liaison Project

Annie Immele – 303-597-0026 x3

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St. Anthony Central NFP

Barbara Bronson – 303-629-3580

BarbaraBronson@centura.org

St. Anthony Central - Womens's Service Line & Nurse Midwifery

Barbara Hughes, CNM - 303-629-3839

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About Jeffco F.I.T.

Jeffco F.I.T. (Families with Infants & Toddlers) **Coalition** meets twice a year and publishes this newsletter biannually. Thank you for your interest and support of organizations and agencies providing services to Jefferson County's children ages 0-3 years. If interested in becoming a member of Jeffco F.I.T. coalition, please contact Cynthia Farkas, chairperson at 303-239-7074.

Mission:

To enhance and promote supportive services to Jefferson County families with children, prenatal to age three years.

Jeffco F.I.T. achieves its mission through information sharing, coordination of services, and identification of gaps in services.

Goals and Objectives:

- ◆ To promote information sharing among service providers
- ◆ To increase awareness of available services
- ◆ To improve coordination and collaboration of services to families
- ◆ To promote the enhancement of continuum of services

For more information about the coalition please visit: <http://health.jeffco.us>.