

MINNEAPOLIS

HEALTHY CITY

THRIVING FAMILIES



A Quarterly Update from the City of Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support

January - March 2006

New PRO-active Approach for Healthy Start

A young pregnant woman named Dawn came to a community clinic for prenatal care and met with her case manager, Theresa, from Twin Cities Healthy Start. Theresa assessed Dawn's chances of a risky pregnancy using a new screening tool – the Prenatal Risk Overview (PRO). The PRO was designed to help clinics fill a gap in the prenatal risk assessment process, which currently focuses on medical risk factors and excludes many of the social risk factors – such as unstable housing, depression, social isolation and domestic violence – that can affect healthy pregnancies. The PRO revealed that Dawn was eligible for services from Twin Cities Healthy Start for a variety of reasons: her housing situation was unstable, she was skipping meals because she was short on money and she was feeling depressed. The PRO also identified some other areas where Dawn could benefit from services, including education about alcohol use during pregnancy, transportation assistance and social support.

The risk overview is one of the new ways that Healthy Start has improved its seventh year of services for pregnant and postpartum African American and American Indian women and their families. Healthy Start is a federally – funded program focused on eliminating health disparities in infant mortality in populations of color. Housed within the Minneapolis Department of Health & Family Support, the program has provided services to more than 1,586 pregnant women and their infants over the past six years.

Previously, pregnant women were referred to Healthy Start by a medical provider at a clinic or by a friend, or they contacted the program on their own. But now, because the PRO is used to screen all prenatal clients, it helps Healthy Start, clinics and social service agencies identify women who have high social or medical risks. Screening results are combined with the clinical judgment and experience of case managers and medical providers to determine if a woman qualifies for special services.

The new screening system also recommends to the case manager which social or medical services are needed to assist the mom during her pregnancy. Women who enroll in Healthy Start are re-evaluated after the baby is born.

continued on page 2

TCHS Prenatal Risk Overview (PRO)

Jump to ... View PRO Results Eligibility/Case Management

HOUSING INSTABILITY SCORED: do not change -- changes will not be saved

IN THE PAST 12 MONTHS...

How many months did you live in your own apartment or house?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

How many nights did you stay in a shelter or other temporary facility?

(0-365)

How many times did you have to move to a different location?

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 or more

How likely is it that you will be living where you are now living, when your baby is born?

Very Likely Somewhat likely Somewhat unlikely Very unlikely

Weed and Seed Taking Root in the Community

Weed and Seed, a community-based crime prevention program, is moving out into the community after having been housed within the City of Minneapolis' Department of Health & Family Support since 1999. The Weed and Seed strategy "weeds" out violent crime, drug trafficking and drug-related livability crimes in targeted high-crime neighborhoods, and "seeds" the target area by expanding social services, restoring a sense of neighborhood and revitalizing the economy – creating a safe environment free of crime and drug activity. This initiative brings together federal, state and local law enforcement agencies, social service providers, public and private-sector stakeholders, probation officers, prosecutors, judges, business owners, faith-based communities and neighborhood residents.

continued on page 3

INSIDE HCTF

2005 REPORT CARD ON TEEN PARENTS
PAGE TWO

THE LINK BETWEEN HOUSING AND HEALTH
PAGE THREE

URBAN HEALTH AGENDA: A TALE OF TWO CITIES
PAGE THREE

HEALTHY CITY UPDATES
PAGE FOUR

Healthy Start continued from page 1

The majority of Healthy Start contractors are community clinics, to more closely integrate Healthy Start case management services with the medical services being offered within the clinics. Community University Health Care Center, Division of Indian Work, Indian Health Board, and North Point Health and Wellness Center in Minneapolis, and the American Indian Family Center and Health Start Clinics in Saint Paul are among the providers.

Healthy Start also provides general information to the African American and American Indian communities about infant mortality and ways for community members to get more involved in helping pregnant women have healthy pregnancies.

For more information on Healthy Start, contact Coral Garner at (612) 673-5446. To refer pregnant women, call (612) 673-3048.

The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS)

VISION:

Healthy residents, communities and environments.



MISSION: to provide leadership in meeting the unique needs of our urban population by engaging partners in promoting individual, community and environmental health and eliminating disparities.

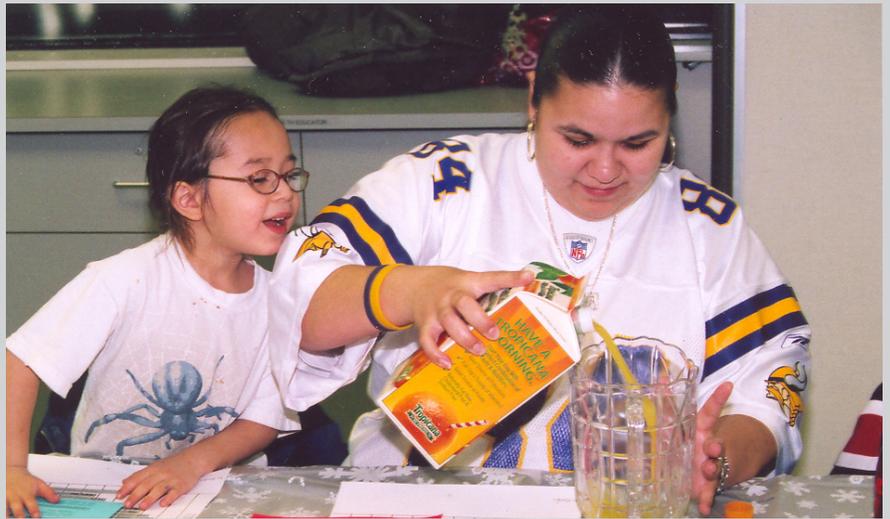
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At the Twin Cities Healthy Start holiday party, a mom and her daughter make healthy non-alcoholic drinks to serve over the holiday season. The holiday party is an annual tradition for Healthy Start families, including a visit from Santa Claus and many family-friendly activities. See front page for more on Healthy Start.

2005 Report Card on Teen Parents

In 2003, 662 Minneapolis teens gave birth, and there were an estimated 1,400 families in Minneapolis headed by teen mothers. These teen-parent families face many obstacles to success, including inadequate childcare, unemployment, missing school, poor health and nutrition, and a lack of parenting support. Teen-parent families are also at a higher risk of long-term welfare dependence and high social service use.

A new 2005 “report card” with the most recent (2003) data highlights trends among these Minneapolis families. The report shows declines in the birth rate among Minneapolis teens and decreases in second and subsequent births to teen parents. A greater proportion of new teen families are Latino, and nearly one in three teen births in 2003 were to mothers born outside the United States. These changes reflect demographic shifts in Minneapolis communities, and they highlight the need to address racial and ethnic disparities. The report card also shows that while many teen families are able to take advantage of supportive opportunities, many others are not reached by these services.

“The Teen Parent Report Card is an opportunity for us to track our success in preventing teen pregnancies and reaching out to at-risk teen families. It is also a useful tool for organizations as they focus on coordinating services to meet the needs of these families,” said Gretchen Musicant, Minneapolis Commissioner of Health.

The Department of Health & Family Support is a key partner in the Teen Parent Connection, created in 2000 to enhance the chances for teen family success and reducing repeat teen pregnancy. Other Teen Parent Connection organizations include Minneapolis Public Schools, Hennepin County and many other community agencies. These agencies work together to identify all teen-parent families in Hennepin County and connect them to school, work, parenting support and early childhood resources.

The four-page report card is posted at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs; click on “reports” and scroll down to “Teen Parent Report Card.”

Weed and Seed Taking Root continued from page 1

Weed and Seed has developed long-term strategies that are sustainable, so that critical work will continue long after the original resources are exhausted. Indeed, the community continued to develop activities from year to year, to reach and surpass most of its goals, one of which included moving the program to community oversight.

The first phase in this process happened in 2001, when the Central Neighborhood Weed and Seed was transferred to Pillsbury United Communities. Now, a final plan for sustainability is being written, and the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) is being awarded the Phillips Community Weed and Seed contract.

The Minneapolis Department of Health & Family Support is working with the community and the Office of Justice Programs within the MN Department of Public Safety to create a smooth transition plan. Weed and Seed is positioned to succeed – to champion community concerns, working with law enforcement and community stakeholders within Weed and Seed neighborhoods. For more information, contact Carrie Day-Aspinwall at (612) 673-3548.

The Link Between Housing and Health

In the summer of 2005, the Department of Health and Family Support embarked on an innovative project to track the health impact of Minneapolis' urban redevelopment investments on the North Side of the city. The North Side Home Fund brings together City departments and local businesses, investors and neighborhood organizations to coordinate and target resources to revitalize communities with high concentrations of "problem" properties. The project started with a pilot cluster of 58 housing units in the Jordan neighborhood in north Minneapolis.

Department researchers partnered with the Jordan Area Community Council to conduct a pre-intervention resident survey on a wide range of health, safety and quality of life indicators. Of the 58 housing units sampled in the survey, 23 were identified as "vacant," and 22 surveys were completed. Findings from the survey confirm that the residents living in the pilot cluster experience significant stressors in their lives. These residents reported significantly lower levels of social support and community engagement than city residents responding to the 2002 SHAPE survey. Residents also expressed safety concerns, with only 14 percent agreeing that children can play safely outdoors, and 100 percent agreeing that crime is a problem in the neighborhood.

"Research shows us that social factors play a significant role in determining health status," said Gretchen Musicant, commissioner of the Department of Health and Family Support. "This study gives us the opportunity to examine how city investments in neighborhood redevelopment can affect the health of Minneapolis residents." The follow-up portion of the study will be conducted following the City's urban redevelopment investments in the area. A summary of the pre-intervention findings is available by contacting Dave Johnson at (612) 673-3948.

Urban Health Agenda: A Tale of Two Cities

Residents of the two urban areas of Minneapolis and Saint Paul have many issues in common, but until recently, collaborations "across the river" have been limited to specific issues such as lead poisoning prevention, infant mortality and HIV. On December 7, public health agencies took a formal step to acknowledge common ground when the health advisory committees of Hennepin County, Minneapolis, and St. Paul-Ramsey County met for the first time ever. The goal was to learn from one another and examine issues of common interest.

Former Minnesota commissioner of health and current CEO of Courage Center, Jan Malcolm, moderated the event. Donna Zimmerman, vice president of government and community relations for HealthPartners, spoke about the work of the Itasca Project, a

local employer-led project driving regional efforts to keep the Twin Cities' economy and quality of life competitive with other regions. Members of the Itasca Project include more than 40 CEOs, the governor, the mayors of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, and University of Minnesota leaders. This group has recently produced the report "Mind the Gap: Reducing Disparities to Improve Regional Competitiveness in the Twin Cities." This report outlines the business rationale for addressing race, class and place disparities in the metro area. The Itasca Group is concerned about disparities from a workforce perspective, looking at potential worker shortages and limited educational achievement in the fastest growing groups. There is also a mismatch between dramatic job growth in the suburbs and people

needing jobs in the core cities. The full report is available at: www.brookings.edu/metro/pubs/20051027_mindthegap.htm

After a rich discussion, each advisory committee shared its respective legislative agenda. Shared priority issues included a statewide smoke-free law, promoting youth development by rebuilding the tobacco-financed youth risk behavior endowment fund and early childhood efforts. Some suggestions in the early childhood areas include health coverage for children and restoring childcare funding lost to cuts. These issues will be further defined before the legislative session. Chairs of the advisory committees will meet with the public health directors to plan for long-term collaborative activities to strengthen the common urban health agenda.

Healthy City Updates

New funding awards

The *Medica Skyway Senior Center* has received the following grants:

- Star Tribune Foundation: \$2,000
- TCF Foundation: \$1,000
- Wells Fargo Bank: \$1,000
- Kingfield Neighborhood Association: \$5,000

In addition, The Senior Ombudsman's Office and *Medica Skyway Senior Center* received \$13,275 from the Minnesota Department of Revenue for tax equipment, volunteer recognition and to expand multicultural services in 2006. In 2005, volunteer tax preparers helped more than 7,000 low-income people and seniors file their state and federal tax returns. For more information, contact the Senior Ombudsman's Office at (612) 673-3004.

Lab awarded HIV rapid test kits

In honor of the 11th anniversary of National HIV Testing Day, Trinity Biotech announced a free giveaway of \$1 million worth of Uni-Gold™ Recombigen HIV rapid test kits to labs across the country. The Public Health Laboratory applied for the giveaway with the expectation that the test kits would be mostly for School-Based Clinic clients, but would also benefit other clients of the lab. In October, the award notice was received for 960 test kits (estimated value \$15,000) over the next 12 months. The first shipment of kits has been received, training has been completed, and the kits will be available to use in mid-January. For more information, contact Tom Oehler at (612) 673-2064.

More Staff Awards

Carrie Day Aspinwall, Coordinator for the City of Minneapolis' Weed and Seed Initiative, received the Chief of Police Merit Award for her participation on the Native American Law Enforcement Summit Planning Team. The summit was held September 20th and 21st, 2005 and brought together 150 conference participants from Federal, State, local and Tribal law enforcement to focus on Native American gangs in Minnesota.

New home for New Families Center

The New Families Center (NFC) has moved to a new location. Previously located at the Phillips Community School, the center has relocated 10 blocks south to the Wilder/Powderhorn School at 34th Street and Chicago Avenue. The center provides a range of health-related services, primarily for limited-English speaking families registering their children for the Minneapolis Public Schools. Services include a health assessment by a licensed school nurse, on-site immunizations, assistance applying for publicly-funded health care programs and referrals to many community resources.

As the grant funding for this initiative decreases, partners are engaged in strategic discussions to sustain the critical functions provided to families through the New Families Center. The New Families Center is a collaborative initiative of the Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support, the Minneapolis Public School District, and the Children's Defense Fund Minnesota. For more information about the center, please contact Patty Bowler at (612) 673-3009.

Lab reaches new record

The Minneapolis Public Health Laboratory is basking in a record-breaking 2005. Estimated revenue from January through December 2005 is anticipated at \$744,430, exceeding any other year by \$55,000. An estimated 125,000 tests were performed in 2005, another highest-ever mark.

These records were accomplished by performing more tests of beaches and rivers and environmental lead tests, and maintaining the level of new immigrant screenings. All laboratory staff share in this achievement.

New staff:

Laura Eiklenborg has joined the Emergency Preparedness team as the regional coordinator through a grant from the U.S. Metropolitan Medical Response System. Laura's tasks will include implementing recommendations from Hennepin County's Cities Readiness Initiative feasibility study, and logistics planning for a possible local pharmaceutical cache for mass vaccinations. Laura has most recently worked as a public health emergency preparedness planner for Anoka County. She can be reached at (612) 673-2103.

Masah Sobboh has joined Twin Cities Healthy Start as a Program Aide II, Information and Community Outreach Specialist. She is responsible for Healthy Start's web-based data collection system, and she will coordinate community consortium and community education outreach activities. Previously, Masah worked in the City's Human Resources department, and has extensive experience in customer service, finance and administration. Her phone number is (612) 673-3448.

Chanel Hargrove, medical assistant, has recently started work in the Public Health Laboratory. Chanel recently moved to Minnesota from Philadelphia. She can be reached at (612) 673-2160.



The Shelley Joseph-Kordell Award honors outstanding individuals and agencies assisting seniors in Hennepin County. This award recognizes those who believe passionately, as Shelley did, that by helping seniors navigate the complex public and private systems around financial planning, housing, transportation and health care, seniors can both retain their independence longer and make life transitions in a more seamless fashion. Pictured to the left are Jennifer Kordell, Shelley's daughter (l), and Ruth Kildow, Senior Ombudsman (r). Kildow was the first recipient of the award which was presented on October 28th, 2005.