

VENTURA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM

HEALTHY People, HEALTHY Families, HEALTHY Communities

Program Services

Public Health Nurses provide early intervention home visitation services that include:

- *Comprehensive bio-psychosocial nursing assessments
- *Parent-Child interaction assessments
- *Screening for developmental delays
- *Screening for depression
- *Screening for substance abuse
- *Screening for domestic violence
- *Health and wellness education
- *Parenting
- *Linkage to community resources and services
- *Support

Mission Statement

Our mission is to maintain at-risk families outside the child welfare system and ensure the overall health and well-being of the family unit.

Success Story

Elizabeth was 7 months pregnant with her second son. Her first child lived with his dad in Arizona. She was currently homeless, addicted to methamphetamine and working as a prostitute. She was receptive to having a Public Health Nurse (PHN) because she didn't remember anything about having a baby and she knew she needed a lot of help. The PHN met her at Project Understanding a few times until she and her boyfriend were able to get a small apartment. Elizabeth continued to work with the PHN, kept all of her prenatal care appointments and even began going to New Start for Moms to help her stay sober. The PHN provided support and education to Elizabeth about her pregnancy and connected her to community resources that would help her prepare for a new baby. When Elizabeth delivered her son, Children and Family Services were notified because of her history. Her drug test was negative. Elizabeth provided the social worker with the PHN's business card and shared all the work she and the PHN had done over the last two months. Children and Family Services closed the referral and congratulated Elizabeth on her success so far in her recovery. The PHN continued working with Elizabeth and her son until he was 6 months old. She remained clean and graduated from New Start for Moms and was very proud of her accomplishment. She had a strong attachment to her son, who was growing and strong. Elizabeth expressed her gratitude to the Public Health Nurse, telling her that "all new moms should have a Public Health Nurse!" She also kept in contact with the PHN for several months, sharing photos and stories about her son."

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VENTURA COUNTY
HEALTH CARE AGENCY



CARING FOR INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES