CARE Track Resident Spotlight

CARE Track Resident Steven Schulz has been collaborating with Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) and multiple home visiting programs in the Rochester community. NFP is a nurse home visiting program that works with first time mothers from low socioeconomic backgrounds in order to help them develop the skills to best provide care for their children. It works with families prenatally through 2 years of age. NFP has been shown to decrease child abuse, along with improving multiple other outcomes for both children and mothers. According to the Washington State Institute for Public Policy, “NFP may be the most effective program for vulnerable children and families ever created.” NFP was implemented in Rochester in 2006. The first group of families enrolled graduated from the program in spring 2009. It is estimated 10-20% of these families will need continued support beyond 2 years of age when the program ends.

The aim of this project is to collaborate with other organizations in Monroe County to provide on-going supports to NFP families, as well as coordinate other community home visiting programs in the community to meet the needs of those families who do not qualify for the NFP program. This initially included work with programs such as Parents As Teachers (PAT) and the Incredible Years (IY). PAT and IY are two programs that are also cost-effective, have been shown to improve parent-child outcomes, and bridge the gap for young children before pre-K or school enrollment. The project has since progressed to include a collaboration between all the home visiting programs in Monroe County. This collaboration has resulted in an algorithm (*see illustration). This algorithm is not all-inclusive, but is meant to help increase awareness of home visiting programs by primary care practitioners in the community and guide referrals for their families who might benefit. Future potential directions include a single point of entry system for community home visiting program referrals.

Dr. Schulz was awarded the Meg Colgan Award, which is awarded to the senior pediatric resident for dedication and sensitivity to patients with special needs. He will be graduating this month from the residency program to return to Rockford, IL, to work at the Crusader Clinic, a federally qualified health center. He will also be assistant faculty at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford. We wish you all the best Dr. Schulz!* The algorithm is available on our website www.plccare.org.

Announcements

Congratulations to CARE Track Resident Geoff Collins, who was awarded 1 of 20 CATCH (Community Access to Child Health) resident awards for his “Cyclopedia” project.

Congratulations to one of PLC’s community partners, Sicily Mitchell, of the Family Resource Centers of Crestwood, for being the 2010 Excellence in Child Abuse Prevention award winner!