



Mental Health Care for Families with Young Children

National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day
The Children's Center in Salt Lake City Wins Federal Grant to Aid Local Children and Families

Salt Lake City, Utah, May 3, 2010 - The Children's Center has won a competitive federal grant to join a national network of child trauma centers that provide services and support to children and families who are exposed to a wide range of traumatic experiences, including physical and sexual abuse, domestic, school and community violence, natural disasters and terrorism, and life-threatening injury and illness.

With the three-year grant, The Children's Center becomes a member of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), whose mission is to improve the quality, effectiveness and availability of services for children and families who experience traumatic events.

"This wonderful recognition of our clinical services allows us to become part of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, and will effectively help us become a nationally known Trauma Center for families with young children," stated executive director, Douglas F. Goldsmith, Ph.D. "Our program will be called the *Safety Net Program for Families with Young Children*."

Under The Children's Center's direction, the *Safety Net Program* will provide evidence based trauma treatment for families who reside in four metropolitan counties: Salt Lake, Davis, Utah, and Weber. This program will transform access to care and the availability and delivery of trauma services for infants, toddlers, preschoolers and early elementary aged children. The Children's Center will expand services to growing populations of minority and refugee children and families with children of deployed military personnel.

"We are thrilled about the opportunities this funding brings to Utah, and to the children and families who will be affected in the short and long term. This grant will have a lasting impact on the availability and quality of the treatment available for traumatized children in our community," said Goldsmith.

The NCTSN grants are funded through the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Department of Health and Human Services. Congress created the National Child Traumatic Stress Network in 2001 in response to the growing need of children exposed to trauma in the United States.

Combining knowledge of child development, expertise in child traumatic stress, and attention to cultural perspectives, the NCTSN supports the development and broad adoption of evidence-based and trauma-informed treatments. The NCTSN is a collaboration of more than 100 academic, clinical and community service centers, including UCLA Neuropsychiatric Institute and Duke University Medical Center, which co-direct the Network through the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress.

"With each new cohort of Network members, we expand the knowledge base of this relatively new field," said Robert Pynoos, M.D., co-director of the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress for UCLA. "Children who experience trauma need all of us to work to improve care and increase access."

NCTSN member centers help children and adolescents exposed to all forms of trauma. National surveys suggest that by their 16th birthday, 25 percent of American children are exposed to at least one significant traumatic experience.

“The local organizations that comprise the NCTSN are our strength,” noted John Fairbank, Ph.D., co-director of The National Center for Child Traumatic Stress for Duke University Medical Center. “We are very pleased to be moving forward together to the benefit of children and families across America.”

About The Children’s Center:

The Children’s Center is a nonprofit agency treating families with children birth to eight who are experiencing mild to severe emotional and behavioral problems. Over 47 years, The Children’s Center has become a prominent mental health facility for very young children—the only agency of our kind in Utah and the largest in the United States. The agency provided service to over 1,800 children and families in the last year.

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