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Children & Family Services Division Office of Child Abuse Prevention

THE SAFE KIDS CALIFORNIA PROJECT

A home visiting project supporting families with young, at risk children

In fall 2008, the Chadwick Center for Children and Families-Rady Children's Hospital, San Diego received an award letter from the federal Children's Bureau of the Administration for Children and Families informing them that their proposal was being funded. The Chadwick Center in cooperation with the Child and Adolescent Services Research Center (CASRC), the National SafeCare® Training and Research Center, and the California Department of Social Services' Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) are disseminating the SafeCare® model for home visitation to multiple California counties for young children at risk for child neglect and/or abuse. The Project also includes an evaluation piece.

SafeCare® is an evidence-based intervention designed to address the child abuse and/or neglect of young children ages 0-5 years. The project has been named Safe Kids California Project (SKCP) and will be funded for 5 years. The SKCP Project will implement this evidence-based home visiting model across multiple California counties. It will target the prevention of child abuse and neglect by leveraging existing funding streams. The SKCP Project will allow selected counties in California to work together in virtual learning communities to redirect existing service delivery capacity to the SafeCare® model, with strong implementation support. It is the experience of the Chadwick Center that the mutual support and accountability associated with these learning communities will help accelerate the pace of implementation, will reinforce fidelity to the model, and will increase the likelihood that the change will be sustained over time.

Over the course of SKCP, SafeCare® will be "cascaded" across multiple counties to expand the availability of evidence-based home visitation, while building the local infrastructure and ongoing training and coaching capacity. This will further sustain and grow SafeCare® for future generations. Another unique feature of this project will be the full cultural adaptation of SafeCare® to Latino families. This includes staff support and coaching in Spanish for Spanish-speaking SafeCare® trainees, which will improve the acquisition of SafeCare® skills in the language they will be delivered. By the end of the grant period, participating counties will be able to sustain the delivery of evidence-based practices well beyond the life of the federally and OCAP supported SKCP.

A solicitation was released to invite counties to participate, and the counties participating in the first phase of the Project have been selected and trained, and the program is being implemented. Those counties in the first phase are Fresno, Madera, and Tulare. The counties in the second phase are currently being selected.

SKCP is funded by a reimbursement from the Department of Public Health.*

For further information about the Chadwick Center, you may visit the web site at:
<http://www.chadwickcenter.org/AboutUs.htm>.

*SKCP was funded with State Children's Trust Fund (SCTF) in fiscal year 2010-2011 and reimbursed by DPH.