



Bernalillo County Home Visitation Work Group

As part of Infant Mental Health Promotion, UNM's Center for Development and Disability supports the coordination of the Bernalillo County Home Visitation Work Group (organized in 2010). The main purpose: **“Convene community stakeholders to develop a coordinated, unified plan for implementation of voluntary (prenatal to early childhood) home visitation services in Albuquerque.”** The main goal is to ensure Albuquerque children are ready for school. The vision holds that all babies in New Mexico will have safe and healthy relationships in their homes, schools, workplaces and communities, free of sexual and domestic violence.

Major outcomes & accomplishments

Building Relationships *“alone we can do so little; TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH” – Helen Keller*

- increases communication about services for young families;
- creates trust and increased comfort when referring families;
- heightens relationships/linkages between the home visiting and early childhood community;
- increases awareness about promotion and prevention in early childhood.

BCHVWG Common Referral Form

- building a more unified and organized method for providers to refer families;
- building awareness about promotion/prevention through home visiting and other programs.

Monthly meetings and Joint Training/Professional Development

- convening stakeholders allays conflict, competition and politics;
- responsive to the group needs (ability to influence monthly agenda & training topics);
- cross-fertilization is a good thing and works;
- high quality training including: Health Benefits & the Affordable Care Act, Immigration Laws & Deferred Action, Safe Sleep, Quality Child Care, Sexual Trauma & Generational Violence, Boys at Risk, Attachment/Brain Development, Prevention of Shaken Baby, Male Involvement, and Preventing Child Sexual Abuse. These are a few examples and FREE!

In conclusion ... The BCHVWG has become a model for New Mexico early childhood initiatives working toward true collaboration to better serve young families in New Mexico. Currently, more than 40 organizations participate in monthly meetings and/or professional development.

The group is a ‘go-to’ resource in the community and currently organizes monthly meetings held on the fourth week of each month. Please contact **D. Catherine Sánchez**, 505.225.9153 or csanchezpreissler@salud.unm.edu for more information. Thank you.