

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Title: DHHS Grant Awards \$1.8M to Continue Community Maternal & Child Health Services through HomeHealth Visiting Nurses

Saco, Portland, and Auburn —The State of Maine’s Center for Disease Control and Prevention, within the Department of Health and Human Services, has announced the award of a three-year grant to continue providing home-based maternal and child health services **to at-risk prenatal women, newborns, new mothers and children with special needs** throughout York, Cumberland, and southern Oxford counties. HomeHealth Visiting Nurses will serve as lead agency in partnership with Portland Public Health Division and Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice.

Dwight Littlefield, Public Health Nurse Consultant for the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention said “This three-year grant award is important for the residents of southern Maine by supporting and extending Public Health Nursing Services focusing on women, infants and children with identified health needs and children with special health needs. This will be done by providing home-based nursing services to attend to the prenatal and postnatal needs of women and children, promote self reliance and self sufficiency, and to assure a seamless system of quality preventive care for these women and children.”

Since 2002, Home Health Visiting Nurses (HHVN), Portland Public Health Division, (PPHD) and Androscoggin Home Care and Hospice (AHCH) have collaborated successfully on bringing home-based, family-focused nursing services. Over the last three years, the collaborative served approximately 10,000 women, infants and children with identified special health needs. This grant will continue that collaboration through June 30, 2014.

The Community Maternal & Child Health Project advocates for prenatal health, seeks to decrease infant mortality, to reduce the incidence of Shaken Baby Syndrome and low birth weight, to encourage well-child checkups, and to reinforce the Center for Disease Controls’ guidelines for immunizations. Nursing services and interventions will include in-home nursing assessments, counseling and support for issues related to substance abuse, emotional, mental health, domestic violence, developmental screenings, breastfeeding, health education. and referral to essential community services. Program admission is open to all women of reproductive age, parents, infants, and children with special needs up to 21 years of age. Services will commence on July 1, 2011 and will be provided at no cost to families regardless of income.



Jennifer Hamel, RN of HomeHealth Visiting Nurses’ pediatric nursing staff checks on a newborn baby in her home.

To obtain services:

For Residents of:

Portland, call Portland Public Health at 207-874-8475;

Lewiston/Auburn, call Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice at 1-800-482-7412;

All other towns in York, Cumberland and southern Oxford Counties, call HomeHealth Visiting Nurses at 1-866-255-8744.

HomeHealth Visiting Nurses is a non-profit home health care agency providing skilled nursing, rehabilitation, home health aide support, medical social work, maternal and child health care, community health clinics, Telehealth and other services in Cumberland and York and southern Oxford Counties. HomeHealth Visiting Nurses is a member of MaineHealth. For more information, call 1-800-660-4867 or visit www.homehealth.org.

Background information on HomeHealth Visiting Nurses

HHVN is a fully licensed, 501(c) (3) **non-profit** home health organization and a member of MaineHealth. The organization represents over 115 years of experience in providing in-home visiting services to infants, children, new mothers, adults and seniors. HHVN serves Cumberland, York and southern Oxford Counties encompassing a service area over 4,663 square miles with a population over 500,000. As a leading provider of home health services in Southern Maine, HHVN provides comprehensive skilled nursing, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, social work and home health aide services to people of all ages. Specialty services include pediatric, maternal and child health, palliative care, cardiovascular care, infusion therapy, wound care, diabetes, mental health and Telehealth. Through its Community Health Program, HHVN provides health education, health screenings, adult health clinics, vaccines, diabetes support groups and CPR training. In 2010, the clinicians of HomeHealth Visiting Nurses traveled over 1.6 million miles to benefit over 40,000 children, adults and elders:

- 9,250 patients maintained independence and health with 111,000 home health visits
- 2,220 newborns and mothers got a healthy start with 6,100 home nursing visits
- 25,000 people were vaccinated as a step toward flu prevention
- 3,130 patients received foot care, health screenings and tests
- 715 older adults lived safely with Lifeline Emergency Response Services and
- 150 volunteers contributed over 12,000 hours to our community and patients.

HHVN operates within a core mission: "Helping people to be as healthy and independent as possible at home and in the community. In maintaining this commitment, HHVN provided over \$247,000 in charity care and an additional \$477,067 of care not reimbursed by government programs to those without insurance or resources to pay for care. For more information, call the Development and Marketing Department at 1-800-660-4867 or visit www.homehealth.org.

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