



2009 State Report

State: Oklahoma

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Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

- Continuing to develop and enhance on-line orientation for new PHNs;
- Set-up and staffed a medical clinic within a shelter that housed 1800 evacuees from Hurricane Gustov;
- Developed a field operations guide for the development of shelter clinics and pharmacies;
- Assisted in the investigation of the largest E. coli 0111 outbreak ever documented in the United States. This outbreak sickened 341 people and resulted in one death and 71 hospitalizations;
- In spite of a budget shortfall, we continue to fund the education of PHNs who commit to completing a Family Nurse Practitioner program and in return work for the Oklahoma State Dept. of Health. This project was developed because we are currently unable to recruit APNs due to our below-market salary plan;
- Participating in the Governor's task force on workforce development. This is in conjunction with the Oklahoma Hospital Association and other healthcare entities;
- Introducing the concept of measurable elements and standards to PHNs in preparation for the start of accreditation activities for our county health departments.
- Celebrated our 11th year in providing home visitation services using the Nurse Family Partnership model.
- Working on moving our APNs from a classified position to unclassified so that we can offer higher salaries to existing and new, in the event the financial situation of the State of Oklahoma improves.