



## State and Partner Report 2006

**State:** Washington

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### Projects/Issues Addressed This Year:

- Began work to develop a logic model and performance measures for statewide public health child and family health programs. Project is in collaboration with state and local public health. This is a project of the Washington Public Health Nursing Directors with initial funding from this group. Funds for current phase from Public Health Improvement Partnership and a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant.
- Continued development of a documentation system for maternity support services that integrates Omaha Language System. Currently, forms are in draft form and are hard copy. The plan is to move to electronic data entry in the near future.
- Public Health Nursing Directors received Collaborative Leadership training as a component of each of their meetings in 2005. Training was provided by the Turning Point Program.

### Projects/Issues Pending:

- Later this year we will have performance measures identified for child and family health programs. We will need to develop data collection tools and methods.
- Currently, there is a legislative committee in place that is looking at a stable source of funding for public health.
- Omaha Language will be utilized for some of our public health programs. We will have data to see if we are tracking outcomes at the level of detail we need for our programs. Government accountability requires us to have outcome-based performance measurements for programs.
- The University of Washington School of Public Health 2006 Summer Institute will offer a track on Environmental Health and Public Health Nursing for the first time. The focus of the track will be to articulate the roles of environmental health and public health using the Ten Essential Public Health Services as a framework. Participants will engage in case study review to identify ways of integrating public health nursing and environmental health.

### Issues and Special Concerns for Public Health Nursing:

- Recruitment and retention of PHNs due to low pay. We do not have a good system to recruit nurses into public health practice.

- Documentation- moving from long narrative nursing notes to a systematic way of collecting client information. This requires a culture shift in how nurses document what they do.