

INFORMATION PAPER

IMWR-FP
08 July 09

SUBJECT: New Parent Support Program

1. Purpose: To provide information about the New Parent Support Program (NPSP)

2. Background: The Family Morale Welfare Recreation Command (FMWRC) has an ongoing mission requirement to provide support services that support Soldier readiness and the well-being of the Army Family. The New Parent Support Program – Home Visitor (NPSP-HV) is a key secondary prevention program within the Family Advocacy Program (FAP). The Family Advocacy Program is a service provided by Army Community Service (ACS). The Family Advocacy Program Manager (FAPM) serves as the supervisor for the NPSP-HV staff.

3. Facts:

a. The NPSP- HV uses an intensive voluntary home visitation model developed specifically for first time expectant parents and parents with children from prenatal to three years of age who have been assessed to be at risk for child maltreatment and/or domestic violence. The program is most effective for Families when it is utilized as part of a comprehensive mix of programs.

b. Home visitors must be a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, Registered Nurse or a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. Home visitors provide intensive home visitation to at risk Families as identified by the Family Needs Screener. Family Service Plans are developed and are designed to meet the unique needs of each family. Continual risk assessments, role modeling, education, mentoring and forming positive relationships are critical skills for positive program outcomes.

c. The NPSP-HV program is funded by a special appropriation from Congress and is part of the DoD effort to prevent child maltreatment and/or domestic violence. The DoD formula requires an installation to have a birthrate of 300 per year for each full time equivalent (FTE) home visitor position.

d. Military Projects at Zero To Three (ZTT) has partnered with the military to provide programs to increase emotional well being and resiliency of infants and toddlers. One of their initiatives is a training program, "Coming Together Around Military Families" (CTAMF) which seeks to strengthen the resilience of young children and their Families who are experiencing trauma, grief and loss as a result of service member's deployment to the war zone. NPSP participated with Children and Youth School-aged Services (CYSS), Dec 2008, in Phase II of this program. This partnership supports military professionals and parents by providing feature articles focusing on the special needs and interest of military Families and their young children.

e. NPSP continues to expand the number of Home Visitors at the garrisons in an effort to mitigate the increase of child neglect incidents and enhance parenting skills.

f. The desired outcomes of the NPSP-HV program are to: prevent child maltreatment and domestic abuse; promote the involvement of both parents; support and increase successful adaptation to military life; promote resilient Families and healthy parenting skills and foster coordination of military and civilian resources to support parents identified as at risk for child maltreatment or domestic abuse.

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