

CAP Services, Inc.
ARRA Early Head Start Program

Progress through June 30, 2010

CAP Services' received notice of its Early Head Start award on December 15, 2009. It proposes to serve 72 families in Portage and Waupaca Counties, primarily through a home-based model, although 8 families in Portage County would also receive center-based program services three days per week at CAP's Family Development Center at 1640 West River Drive in Stevens Point.



Since then it has hired 7 home visitors, a teacher, and a program assistant and expanded the health and nutrition services staff capacity to serve both Head Start and Early Head Start families. Staff completed a significant number of training sessions including CPR with AED, prenatal services, home visiting, mental health and disabilities and orientations to CAP Services, Head Start, CAP's Family Development Partnership Tool Kit and more.

Recruitment was completed and all slots were filled.

Program services were fully operational on March 22, 2010. 41 households are being served in Portage County and 31 in Clintonville and Waupaca. While some families chose to leave the program, staff have filled the slots from our waiting lists. New families have a home visit within 10 days of enrollment. All families participate in weekly meetings in the home to address issues and questions, educate and provide linkages with needed services (usually a 1½ hour visit). Pregnant moms are re receiving bi-weekly visits of 1 ½ hours.

Nursing staff have completed three face-to-face prenatal health assessments. Post-visits will be completed after the birth of their child. Nursing staff continues to monitor health information daily and addresses any concerns with the Home Visitors for all families.

Children in the center-based program receive bi-weekly visits in the home as well as the classroom time they receive three days a week. Parents plan and implement monthly family outreach days. The last Thursday of every month, parents receive a special invitation to spend the day with their child, eat lunch, and complete special planned activities. Parents can also join in training sessions that have included child nutrition, dog safety, positive discipline and healthy snacks. Home visitors link families with community resources/agencies to provide support and training for parents as well.

What families say about the program so far:

- “To us, Early Head Start is a time for learning and play time with our child.”
- When we first started this program, I was really worried about my child's social skills. Now, we look forward to visits and socializations where my child has really learned to open up and become more confident.”
- “Early Head Start means – Laugh, learn, grow!”
- “We love our Early Head Start call from social evaluations!”

