

City of Bloomington, Division of Public Health

Healthy families is the goal of accreditation in a national program

July, 2014 – Dedicated Bloomington Public Health nurses help families in need make their homes a place where parents and children flourish. Accreditation in the national Healthy Families America program will enhance their success.

Why accreditation?

Accreditation affirms that trained nurses use proven methods to help new families thrive.

Participating families achieve healthy childhood outcomes by learning about:

- Positive parenting
- Healthy child development
- School readiness
- Family self-sufficiency



Parents learn about early childhood development and parenting skills to help their family thrive.

Accreditation in the program is taking place with 15 other area agencies that make up the Metro Alliance for Healthy Families. Bloomington Public Health Nurses are preparing their accreditation submission from July to October 2014. A 3-day, peer review of the Metro Alliance will follow in December.

Participating families demonstrate success

The Healthy Families America home-visiting services begin prenatally or right after baby is born. Participation is voluntary for eligible families who have risk factors that make them more likely to have poor childhood outcomes. Nurses work closely with the families for 3 to 4 years after birth.

In 2013, families that chose to participate experienced the following success measures:

- **Families increased access to preventive health services**
 - 98% of families met the target for connection to a primary health provider
 - 93% of families were current with well-child exams
 - 95% of MAHF children through age two were fully-immunized
- **Children develop as expected - after 15 or more home visits in a 12-month period**
 - 94% rated within average range for cognitive and physical growth
 - 90% rated within average range for behavioral/emotional milestones
- **Children are raised in safer environments**
 - 97% of families had no reports of abuse or neglect