Program Purpose: The Nurturing Families Network is a statewide system of continuous care designed to promote positive parenting and reduce incidences of child maltreatment.

Contributes to Population Quality of Life Result: Young children in Connecticut will have quality parental care that meet their needs and will be healthy, developmentally on track, and ready to learn.

<u>Performance Measure 1:</u> Positive change in mothers' expectations as measured by the Child Abuse Potential Inventory (CAPI) Rigidity subscale.



Story Behind Measure 1: Families participating in NFN home visiting show significant reductions on the rigidity subscale of the CAPI within 1 year of program participation. These data indicate that families have less rigid parenting attitudes and are less likely to treat their children forcefully.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: Program services focus on improving parenting attitudes and behavior, promoting child development, and decreasing the likelihood of child maltreatment using curricula that focuses on positive parenting practices and

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education. We expect to see significant changes on the CAPI rigidity subscale.

<u>Performance Measure 2:</u> Rates of substantiated maltreatment among program participants.





Story Behind Measure 2: The above graph shows the annualized rates of maltreatment rates for the past 5 years. Rates of substantiated abuse ranged from 6.4% in 2004 to 1.3% (the lowest) in 2008. These rates are very low when compared with rates of 20-25% reported in studies with similarly high-risk mothers who did not receive home visitation services.

Proposed actions to turn the curve:

NFN home visitation model uses the most recent science on child development and parenting practices with an infrastructure

Nurturing Families Network

for recruiting high-risk families and ensuring quality and consistent program implementation. We expect to continue to see low rates of child maltreatment.

<u>Performance Measure 3:</u> Change in rates of employment and educational attainment after one year of program involvement.

Change in % of Mothers Employed After 1 Year



Employment Entry Employment 1 Year

Change in % of Mothers with a High School Education After 1 Year





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Story Behind Measure 3: The

employment and education data above shows the program entry and 1 year rates for families entering the program for the past 5 years. Families show significant change in employment and education within their first year of program participation. For 2008, 39% of mothers were employed compared with 22% at program entry. In addition, 56% of these mothers had at least a high school education compared with 49% at program entry. These outcomes suggest that home visitors are helping families to build more assets and become more selfsufficient.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: Because many of the NFN parents are constantly faced with unemployment and underemployment, as well as social, cultural and sometimes language barriers, home visitors use a two generation approach: they emphasize support for the mothers' developmental trajectory as well as the children's. We expect to continue to see significant change in the areas of employment and education.

Performance Measure 4:

Participation and retention rates in NFN home visiting program.



Story Behind Measure 4:

The number of families served in the NFN home visiting program from 2004 to 2008 has more than doubled, from 689 to 1,716. The increase was more pronounced in 2005 and 2006 due to the Hartford expansion. Also, in 2007 and 2008, there was another increase due to the expansion in New Haven. In addition, families at program sites that have provided services since at least 2004 (the maximum five-year program time) have participated in home visitation on average for 22 months.

Proposed actions to turn the curve: The Nurturing Families Network is operating out of all 29 birthing hospitals and thus has the infrastructure for going

to scale in Connecticut. Even as the program has expanded and the number of families served has substantially increased, program evaluation continues to show many positive program aspects and outcomes. The positive impact is related to: the population being served (low SES, often young, first-time mothers with low coping skills at program entry); the onset of services (prenatal or at birth); the combination of services (case management and curricula that targets specific issues and outcomes); and the intensity of services (ability to consistently and frequently engage mothers and families). Once families are screened and recruited, NFN is well-equipped in terms of facilitative administrative support, performance monitoring to ensure fidelity to the model, and home visitation staff training and supervising to address risk factors. In addition, we are in the process of strengthening the program's focus on recruiting fathers, and have also implemented a pilot program to test the efficacy of in-home depression treatment to complement NFN home visiting.