

FEDERAL NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED



homeless youth with medical, dental, psychiatric, substance abuse and pregnancy care. Provides HIV testing, job training and placement. Relies on peer counselors to move troubled, vulnerable young people off the streets and into more stable living arrangements.

Philadelphia, PA, Resources for Human Development: One of the first nurse-operated managed care programs in the state. Serves two public housing communities. Has dramatically increased child immunization rates, sharply decreased incidence of low birthweight, cut health care costs and created jobs for public housing residents.

Monroe, MI, Camp Health Aide Program: Trains migrant and seasonal farmworkers as health aides to provide health education, first aid and other health and social services to their peers, and to train health care providers in cultural sensitivity. Encourages and assists aides to complete nursing or medical assistant training programs.

Two of the first Models That Work, chosen last year, shared their success in helping others: East St. Louis, IL, East Side Health Care Coalition, has several replications in the works, the first in a Springfield, IL, community of 23,000 with no other health care resources. Also honored was Vista, CA, Fund for Moms, which offers low cost loans to cover the costs of prenatal care and has several replications in the works.

The Models That Work campaign pays travel and other expenses for project staff to teach others in similar circumstances how to provide basic health care and related social services to underserved communities. It also supports conference workshops that

highlight these outstanding grassroots programs, a directory and on-line data base of model programs, and guidelines and technical assistance to spawn replications.

HRSA's major partners in Models That Work include the W.K. Kellogg Foundation, Pharmacia & Upjohn and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Within HHS, the Health Care Financing Administration and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention co-sponsor MTW. The HRSA Maternal and Child Health Bureau and the Office of Rural Health Policy also co-sponsor the campaign.

—U.S. DEPT. OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
11/26/96

MILITARY AFFAIRS

VA EXPANDS OUTREACH TO SEXUAL TRAUMA VICTIMS

■(WASHINGTON) The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is expanding efforts to reach out to women veterans who experienced sexual trauma while serving in the military.

VA recently publicized its national toll-free number, reminding women veterans who need information on sexual trauma counseling and treatment, and filing claims for disability compensation to call VA's toll-free number — 1-800-827-1000.

The department activated the number after normal business hours in connection with the Nov. 15 airing of ABC's *20/20* which featured two segments on rape in the military. More than 2,000 calls were re-

ceived. Although not all were related to sexual trauma, VA staff were able to assist a number of women veterans who needed counseling and referrals to the nearest VA facility or community resource.

Women veterans who call the toll-free number seeking assistance are routed to the regional office women veteran coordinators who can provide information and assist in referrals to VA medical centers or Readjustment Counseling Service Veterans Outreach Centers (Vet Centers). Male veterans are referred to the nearest VA facility with a post-traumatic stress disorder program or to the nearest Vet Center.

—U.S. DEPT. OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
11/25/96

PUBLIC SAFETY

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR AIR BAGS ANNOUNCED

■(WASHINGTON) The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) last week announced a comprehensive approach to preserve the important safety benefit of air bags while minimizing their danger to children and at-risk adults.

The agency announced its approach centers on accelerating the development of "smart air bag" technology for future vehicles with the intent of having the systems available in fall 1998 for 1999 models. More immediate measures include adoption of enhanced warning labels, depowering of air bags and continuing to allow the use of cut-off switches in vehicles without a rear seat to protect children.

NHTSA Administrator Ricardo Martinez, M.D., said, "The safety of the motoring public is our highest priority. Air bags are working well, but need to be improved to enhance the safety of children and small stature adults. These comprehensive measures will maintain the safety benefits of air bags, decrease their potential hazard to children and at-risk adults, and provide consumers with important safety information.

The agency will propose setting a phase-in schedule for the next generation of air bags to begin in fall 1998 for 1999 models. With the growth of research and competition in air bag technology, NHTSA believes that "smart bags" will provide significantly

Continued on next page

