Project Title: Translating Effective Maltreatment Intervention into the Community
Principal Investigator: Baggett, Kathleen
Sponsor: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Sponsor Award Number: R18CE001705
Duration Dates: 09/01/09-08/31/13
Brief Description of Project: "Healthy Infants" seeks to develop and test the translatability of an evidence-based parenting intervention into a community-based program aimed at reducing child maltreatment. Specifically, we propose to translate the Play and Learning Strategies program (PALS; Landry & Smith, 1996; Smith et al., 2000; Landry et al., 2001), an evidence-based program demonstrated to increase responsive parenting and thereby promote healthy infant social emotional development. The PALS program has been demonstrated to operate with fidelity and effectiveness within an in-person, one-to-one, mother-coach relationship. However, within this effectiveness evidence, the role of coach has remained within the research context. Attempts to more broadly disseminate this program into the community have met with many barriers to effectiveness; particularly those related to the provision of training and support necessary for community-based coaches to serve families at the level that research coaches have previously demonstrated (Glasgow, Marcus, Bull, & Wilson, 2004). Through our prior work (Infant Net; Feil, Baggett, Davis, et al., 2008), we have developed an Internet-based delivery system for the PALS program, one that harnesses the power of the internet to facilitate efficient connections between the community parents and trained PALS coaches. By utilizing the Infant Net delivery platform, we have the opportunity to address critical dissemination barriers through linking home visitors within community service organizations directly to professionally-trained PALS program consultants in order to provide the necessary training and ongoing support required for effective community-based program implementation. It is within this context, consistent with Healthy People 2010 goals pertaining to Healthy Infants and toddlers, that we will pursue the following: Objective 1) In preparation of community implementation, we will conduct a 6-month development phase in which we will adapt existing Infant Net PALS materials into the necessary context to translate program implementation into diverse communities by: a) adapting existing training and coaching materials to better reflect a community home visitor-program consultant support relationship; and b) overlaying the existing Spanish translation of the PALS program onto the computer-delivery platform to increase program reach to linguistically diverse communities; and Objective 2) Following our provision of laptops with “eye-ball” cameras to community agency home visiting staff and installation of wireless Internet access in each community agency who does not already have it, we will proceed with implementation of our community-adapted intervention, Infant Net for Home Visitors (Infant Net-HV), within nine Healthy Families (HF) programs spanning a 13-county region in the state of Kansas. Our implementation approach will take the form of a 3-wave, iterative implementation design in which each wave will provide feedback to inform subsequent wave implementations. Across the 3 waves, we will implement with nine HF sites, 18 home visitors, and 270 at-risk families.