



P R E S S R E L E A S E

November 29, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MISSOULA CITY-COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECEIVES \$4,300 GRANT FOR PREVENTING SIDS

Missoula City-County Health Department (MCCHD) announced today that it has received a \$4,300.00 grant from the CJ Foundation for prevention efforts toward sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The CJ Foundation, the largest leading SIDS organization in the country, awarded the grant to MCCHD's Health Services Division, Public Health Home Visiting Program.

Since the 1960s Missoula City-County Health Department's Public Health Home Visiting program has been serving families in Missoula County through Public Health Home Visiting Case Management, and Case Management of Children with Special Health Care Needs. With their team of Public Health Nurses, Social Workers, and Registered Dietitians, they are able to provide assistance, education, and support to pregnant women, new parents and their infants, and children with a variety of special needs. In addition, they provide Medicaid application assistance to pregnant women, free prenatal classes, and parenting support.

As a component of their Public Health Home Visiting Program, MCCHD currently provides effective education on SIDS prevention and Safe Sleep to individual families including partnering with Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies-Montana "Safe Sleep for Baby" program, providing free "Pack 'n Play" Playard cribs and Safe Sleep education to families enrolled in home visiting services. The CJ Foundation grant support will be used to strengthen MCCHD's leadership in the Missoula community in prevention of SIDS and infant deaths related to unsafe sleep environments. Activities will include assistance to community agencies, group homes, and family shelters with Safe Sleep policy and protocol development, group teaching, and staff training.

"The CJ Foundation for SIDS is proud to support the important work of Missoula City-County Health Department through this grant," said Linda McNeil Tantawi, Executive Director of the CJ Foundation. "We are acutely aware of how important education is in the role of reducing the risk of

SIDS and infant death due to unsafe sleep environments. Education is a critical part of our mission and we will continue to support programs and organizations that advocate public awareness.”

Kate Siegrist, Nursing Supervisor for the Public Health Home Visiting team expressed her appreciation for the funding support, “We are grateful for the opportunity to expand our efforts in SIDS prevention and Safe Sleep. Every infant death is a tragedy for our community. Every preventable infant death is a call for Public Health to respond”.

The CJ Foundation for SIDS was founded by Joel and Susan Hollander in memory of their daughter, Carly Jenna, who died from SIDS in 1993. Since its inception in 1994, the CJ Foundation has provided millions of dollars towards SIDS research, bereavement support programs, and education and public awareness initiatives throughout the nation, making tremendous strides in its fight to end SIDS.

Working with the CJ Foundation, MCCHD continues to reinforce its mission to “Promote and support optimal health for the people in our community”.

To learn more about the CJ Foundation for SIDS, visit www.cjsids.org or call (888) 8CJ-SIDS.

MCCHD website: www.missoulapublichealth.org

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