



Child Care Health Consultants promote health and safety for our state's youngest children.

The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (NCPC), in partnership with the N.C. Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center (NCCCHSRC), improved statewide capacity and effectiveness for child care health consultations. The project's goal was to provide infrastructure for consistent and high quality Child Care Health Consultation services, in order to increase the percentage of children with high needs who participate in ongoing health care, and who are up-to-date on a schedule of well-child checks.

The project was built upon the Child Care Health Consultation infrastructure and established a statewide regional coaching model for Child Care Health Consultants (CCHCs). Three regional coaches received training and supervision in a coaching model from the NCCCHSRC. The regional coaches then trained local CCHCs, who utilized the coaching model during technical assistance provision to child care providers. Through the development and implementation of a CCHC Practice model, further supported by regional coaching, CCHC services will continue to improve in quality and consistency across communities.

Child Care Health Consultants

PARTNERS



Child Care Health Consultants are health professionals who know about child health and development, and safety in child care settings. They provide guidance and technical assistance to child care providers, children, and families.

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Many tools developed through the CCHC project will support quality, consistent service delivery, including:

- The CCHC Orientation Guide for Pre-Qualified CCHCs
- The CCHC Hiring Agency Orientation Guide
- The CCHC Practice Model
- The NC CCHC Health and Safety Assessment APP

All current CCHCs have been trained in the CCHC Practice model. For new CCHCs, the coaching model module is incorporated in the CCHC Training Course.

Often provided through Smart Start local partnerships and local health departments, Child Care Health Consultants (CCHCs):

- Work collaboratively with early education staff to assess health and safety components in child care facilities
- Develop quality improvement plans
- Develop strategies for inclusion of children with special care needs
- Manage and prevent injuries and infectious diseases
- Connect families with community health resources
- Provide health education for staff members, families and children

This activity strengthened statewide capacity by establishing a regional health consultation coaching model and CCHC performance model. It also provided additional health consultants in the Transformation Zone counties and improved access to services in high-need, rural communities.

Child Care Health Consultants work directly with Child Care Center Directors and families to make sure all children are in safe, and healthy environments.

Jean Douglas, Site Manager for the Fayetteville Street Head Start, has learned first-hand about the benefits of CCHCs:

“We enrolled a four-year-old child at Head Start who has had seizures in the past. The child’s medicine is a suppository and our staff needed immediate training since they had not had experience with this type of medication in the past. Marsha Williams, a health consultant, was able to come and conduct the training on short notice.

Marsha conducted the training on seizures, and helped the staff and the child’s parents learn how to use the medication. During this workshop, she also conducted training on asthma and the correct procedures for using the EpiPen.

We really appreciated the way that Marsha made the child’s emergency her top priority, and because of this, the child was able to start school with ease and the staff had the proper plans in place for the child. We learned a lot and feel much better regarding helping our children if an emergency occurs.”

For more information about Child Care Health Consultation, go to <https://healthychildcarenc.org>, or <http://www.ncsmartstart.org>.