

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 29, 2011

CONTACTS: Suzanne Pate, 425.339.8704
spate@shd.snohomish.wa.gov
Terry Clark, 425.353.5656
Terry.clark@littlered.org

Public health program to move from Snohomish Health District to Little Red Schoolhouse
The Nurse-Family Partnership will continue to serve the community under a new roof

SNOHOMISH COUNTY, Wash. – Snohomish Health District announced the transition of its Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) maternal-child health program to a new community site for the program, Little Red School House, effective October 4, 2011. Amid last year's difficult budget decisions, the Health Board was able to sustain funding for NFP only through 2011.

"Snohomish Health District regrets the departure of the NFP program and its dedicated professional staff, yet we are very pleased that the NFP program will continue to serve Snohomish County," said Jeff Clarke, Deputy Director of Snohomish Health District. "NFP is a valuable program that has proven its worth to the community many times over. It changes lives for the better."

During the first part of 2011, District staff canvassed the community to identify organizations with the interest, philosophical alignment, and the financial means to sustain the program into the future. The agency found that Little Red School House met all the considerations.

"The Nurse-Family Partnership is a perfect fit at Little Red School House," said Terry Clark, Executive Director at Little Red School House. "We are a community-based service provider for Snohomish County families with children, age birth to three years who have developmental disabilities, developmental delays, or who are at risk of falling behind their peers. Our goals and practices are completely compatible with NFP goals, and we welcome the staff with open arms."

NFP had operated in the local public health agency since 1999. NFP is an evidence-based home visitation program available for first-time mothers, 21 years of age and younger. Specially trained public health nurses visit families in their home throughout the pregnancy and continue to visit until the child is two years old. The nurses visit weekly and bi-weekly during the pregnancy, infancy and toddler period. The education curriculum includes information during each phase of the development. This relationship-based model builds on the parent's strengths supporting the parent-child relationship, healthy parent-child outcomes, and goals for the future helping first-time parents succeed.

Little Red Schoolhouse will start operating the program as the subcontractor on October 4, and will entirely take over the program on January 1, 2012. Four current NFP staff will continue their work with the new organization. The program has been funded through the Mental Health Sales Tax funds.

Little Red School House was founded in 1963 and exists to advance the quality of life for all children, focusing on children birth to three years of age who are developmentally disabled or delayed or who are at risk of delay. The main offices are located at 14 E. Casino Rd., Everett, WA 98208 You can learn more at www.littlered.org.

Established in 1959, the Snohomish Health District works for a safer and healthier community through disease prevention, health promotion, and protection from environmental threats. Find more information about the Health District at www.snohd.org.###END###