A partnership aimed at addressing the devastating effects of domestic violence has received national recognition.

Domestic violence is a crime and a tragedy. It is also a health care problem of epidemic proportions. In addition to the immediate trauma caused by abuse, domestic violence contributes to a number of chronic health problems.

In an effort to further reduce the exacerbation of domestic violence and to address and prevent domestic violence through integrated models of service and systems-level improvements, a partnership was established between the Family Assistance Program, a non-profit organization, and the Hesperia Health Center, a Federally Qualified Health Center. This partnership received a grant in support of this work from the Blue Shield of California Foundation.

Following a rigorous peer review process including 151 applicants, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has designated the Domestic Violence Health Care Partnership as a Promising Practice. The partnership’s adoption of policy and procedural changes has incorporated a trauma informed, culturally appropriate response to domestic violence.

The selection of this program as a Promising Practice indicates that the program exhibits the potential for becoming a future Model Practice. As a Promising Practice, the program will be highlighted in NACCHO’s Model Practice Database, an online collection of local health department programs. To view the database, visit http://www.naccho.org/topics/modelpractices/search.cfm.

The Domestic Violence Health Care Partnership supports the overall Countywide Vision by providing preventative primary care services for insured, uninsured and underinsured county residents and visitors in support of a healthy San Bernardino County.

For more information on Health Center services call 1800-722-4777. To access other Public Health services, contact the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health at 800-782-4264 or visit our website at www.sbcounty.gov/dph.

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