



Westside Infant-Family Network (WIN) Clinical Director, Dr. Wendy Sun, Receives Professional Endorsement

Dr. Sun is one of only 52 mental health professionals in the state to receive Infant Mental Health endorsement

LOS ANGELES, CA, February 7, 2011 – Dr. Wendy Sun, Clinical Director of Westside Infant-Family Network (WIN), was among the first 52 California clinicians endorsed by the California Center for Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health to provide mental health services to infants, young children and families. This endorsement marks the culmination of over two decades of work to create and finalize a unified set standards of training and competencies that mark a clinician as qualified to train and mentor other clinicians in early childhood and infant mental health.

The endorsement recognizes that Dr. Sun's professional preparation and experience meet the set of refined, evidence-based training guidelines and recommended competencies described in the *California Training Guidelines and Personnel Competencies for Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health, 2009*. With this endorsement, she is deemed proficient in possessing the complexity of skills and knowledge needed to support the social and emotional development and well-being of infants and young children within the context of their early relationships, family, community and culture. The official endorsement title is: Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health Specialist Reflective Practice Facilitator III/Mentor.

Recent developments in neuroscience, infant mental health, and attachment, as well as prenatal and perinatal psychology and health, show that the optimal, most cost effective time to make positive interventions in human development is from the very beginning of life. Early mental health services promote school readiness by strengthening early relationships, family functioning and a child's emotional regulation and social competence.

"We are fortunate to have Dr. Sun leading WIN's clinical program," said Anna Henderson, Executive Director of Westside Infant-Family Network. "Her expertise and thoughtful supervision has added a depth and structure to our therapeutic services that has strengthened our program, our outcomes, and ultimately the families that we serve. This endorsement reflects Dr. Sun's stellar work and we're honored to have one of the state's leading IMH practitioners as a part of WIN."

About Westside Infant-Family Network (WIN)

Westside Infant-Family Network (WIN) provides free, in-home mental health care to families with young children in collaboration with its three partner agencies—Westside Children's Center, Venice Family Clinic, and St. Joseph Center. Together, the WIN network connects families to an integrated "nest" of early care, health care, mental health care, social services and other community resources families facing multiple challenges need to stabilize and thrive.

About The California Center for Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health

The California Center for Infant-Family and Early Childhood Mental Health was created to reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the infant-family and early childhood field. Currently housed at the WestEd Center for Prevention and Early Intervention, we work to assure the quality of infant-family and early childhood mental health services throughout California. A key mission is to support the development of competent personnel in communities throughout the state. Professionals grounded in core infant-family and early childhood knowledge and relationship-based training will enhance the capacity of parents and other primary caregivers to support the social and emotional well-being of their children.