

SEXUAL HEALTH AND ADOPTION EDUCATION PROJECT

FINAL REPORT

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INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In May 2008, the Ohio Department of Health's Abstinence and Adoption Program Development contract was awarded to the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Division of Adolescent Medicine, to develop evidence-based guidelines on sexual health and adoption education and to pilot these guidelines in a representative sample of Ohio public secondary schools during the spring of 2009. The project team consisted of professionals from several disciplines, including adolescent medicine, academic research, health education and law. During the summer of 2008, the project team researched and wrote a literature review that formed an evidentiary basis for the guidelines.

In November, 2008, the Ohio Department of Health convened a meeting of selected statewide stakeholders to review and comment on the literature review and guidelines. The project team then created a guideline detail and teacher training agenda in response to the stakeholders' comments. The team also created two classroom modules/lesson plans with related materials and a companion DVD on adoption, entitled *Adoption is an Option*.

In the winter of 2008-09, the project team recruited seven schools in Ohio to pilot the guidelines, including the adoption modules, during the second semester of the 2008-09 academic year. The team conducted six-hour training sessions for pilot teachers, administrators and other interested educators. In the spring of 2009, trained teachers participating in the pilot taught a sexual health and adoption education unit to their secondary school students. The project manager made site visits to the pilot locations and students, teachers and administrators who participated in the project completed evaluations at the conclusion of the pilot.

This final report contains the key documents developed for this project, including the literature review, guidelines, and adoption modules. It also contains reports on training and implementation of the guidelines, as well as evaluation results from students, teachers and administrators. Finally, there is a discussion of lessons learned and recommendations.

The project team, who authored this report, wishes to acknowledge the Ohio Department of Health for this programming opportunity and, in particular, Angela Norton and Sandra Hood for their unwavering support throughout this project. In addition, the team would also like to acknowledge the highly motivated teachers and administrators in Ohio public schools who participated in this pilot project.