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PRESS RELEASE

Clinical Outcomes Group, Inc., (COGI) Pottsville, Pennsylvania was invited to present data on December 5th, 2009 at the National Head Start Association Conference in San Jose, California. Funded through a \$100,000 grant from the American Legacy Foundation, COGI developed a tool kit for Head Start agencies to develop and implement smokefree home policies with Head Start Families. The project was first implemented in Schuylkill County through a partnership with Schuylkill County Child Development. It has been replicated in six additional Head Start agencies in Pennsylvania and has been funded by other regional health foundations including the Berwick Health and Wellness Foundation and the Carlisle Area Health and Wellness Foundation. Results of the study found that Head Start agencies can be an effective intermediary to help lower income adults quit smoking and reduce their child's exposure to second hand smoke, the 3rd leading cause of mortality in the United States. Moreover, children whose parents do not smoke are 30% less likely to smoke as adults.

David Zanis, Ph.D., President, Board of Directors of COGI noted that the staff of the Schuylkill County Child Development program played a critical role in designing and implementing the project. For more information on the project, please call 1-800-264-1290, or download a copy of the toolkit at: <http://www.coginc.org/ProjectFresh-HeadStart.asp>

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