

Out-reach assessment for children development

Nantou is a remote county surrounded by high mountains. It was located right in the geographic center of Taiwan. Traffic transportation and medical resources are extremely limited, especially for those infants and children with developmental delay and learning difficulties in this area. It takes time before they can be investigated in the county hospitals because of long distance. Deficiency of health care and inconvenience of transportation, therefore, have become the barriers for those children who were cared by the elders, new immigrant families and low income families.

Consider the specific geographic characteristics, instead of center oriented services, we started an out-reach program by sending a pediatric neurologist and an assessment team to the local medical clinics at Caotum Township since 2007. In 2008, we further collaborated with the other two major hospitals in Nantou county, Chu Shang Show Chuan Hospital and Nantou Hospital, and started the Developmental Assessment Clinic to serve children with developmental delay and learning difficulties. Thus, we extend the services from hospital oriented services to a local clinics and communities. Our services have covered one third of entire Nantou County.

In addition, there are two major aboriginal township in Nantou, Ren Ai and Shin Yi townships. These two townships are mainly consisted of the aboriginal. It is very inconvenient for them to have medical assessment. We cooperated with Office of Early Intervention Center and utilized mobile clinics around tribe communities and local medical units. We also arranged outreach investigating teams to offer services there every other week.

The entire system has made children evaluation network in Nantou more efficient. Till year 2012 , we have completed more than 1400 cases of assessment.

Our vision is to provide proper medical teams for those children suspected development delay and learning difficulties. We utilize limited human resource, finance and local resources to provide a better coverage for rural population with efficient assessment, so that children and parents are able to receive proper treatment before enter primary school.

