



Illinois Children's
Healthcare Foundation

CONTACT:

Candice Wartier at 773-991-1210;
cwartier@communication-strategies.com
or
Lynda Baldwin at 708-703-8804;
l.baldwin@communication-strategies.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation Awards Multi-Million Dollar Grant for Children's Mental Health Services in Chicago's High Risk Neighborhoods

CHICAGO, IL (October 10, 2013) – Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF) has awarded \$4 million in grants to provide integrated behavioral health services in two of Chicago's high need areas, Englewood and Humboldt Park. An innovative model of care, the **Healthy Minds, Healthy Children, Healthy Chicago (H3)** initiative uniquely blends primary healthcare services with mental health services and is designed to help children and their families through a team-based approach to prevention and early intervention.

ILCHF is awarding \$2 million each to Erie Family Health Center, in partnership with Community Counseling Centers of Chicago (C4), and Metropolitan Family Services, in partnership with University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System Mile Square Health Center. Funding over the next five years will support the creation of a sustainable system of integrated primary and mental health services in the greater Englewood and Humboldt Park areas.

H3 is a collaboration among primary care physicians, behavioral health professionals, parents, social service agencies, and other community members to benefit children's mental health and well-being. Services will be provided for families and children who exhibit symptoms of stress, anxiety, attachment disorders, depression, anger management concerns and other common mental health symptoms. Thousands of children and their families will be positively affected by this new model of healthcare.

"Children's mental health is a vital component of their overall health and well-being and must be addressed. Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation believes the integrated model of care will be extremely effective, addressing both the physical and mental well-being of a child. But we cannot do this alone," says Heather Higgins Alderman, President, Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation. "We are thrilled to be awarding these funds to strong community partners who have proven success in providing healthcare, behavioral health and social services in Chicago's neediest communities," she added.

With an initial planning grant of \$150,000 each from ILCHF, the awardees have already conducted an assessment to identify each community's gaps, challenges and strengths. These outcomes have shaped strategic plans for a fully integrated healthcare model.

"The Healthy Minds, Healthy Children, Healthy Chicago initiative will advance mental health services in Chicago's Westside and Southside communities," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "This grant will assist the City of Chicago in serving the mental health needs of the children and families in these communities, which will have a profound effect on the communities overall - increased academic achievement, more cohesive families and safer neighborhoods and schools."

According to a recent study by the CDC, of those individuals with lifetime mental illnesses, half begin by age 14. A total of 13%–20% of children living in the U.S. experience a mental disorder in a given year. Even further, the majority of community health system primary care visits involve a psychosocial component affecting the patient's physical health. This is especially true within the communities targeted by H3, as children's adverse experiences affect their mental health and well-being.

The Erie Family Health Center, in partnership with Community Counseling Centers of Chicago (C4), will concentrate on children ages 0-17 years and their families living in the Humboldt Park, Logan Square, West Garfield Park, North Lawndale, and West Town Community areas. Over the last several months, the Westside H3 partnership has identified, further developed, and planned for the execution of an integrated model for providing behavioral health screening, assessment, and treatment embedded within the traditional primary care setting in a way that acknowledges the essential link between physical and mental health needs.

Metropolitan Family Services, in partnership with Mile Square Health Center, will focus on providing integrative health to children in the greater Englewood area. An integrated care model will be developed and implemented, in which the traditional doctor-patient relationship will be transformed to a team-patient relationship and where mental healthcare will be a core component of the team's delivery of primary care.

In order to enhance children's mental health services on a systemic level, the Foundation has made significant investments in integrative mental health programs across Illinois promoting innovative, collaborative care and using evidence informed prevention and intervention approaches. ILCHF launched its Children's Mental Health Initiative, *Building Systems of Care, Community by Community* in 2011, and to date, has invested over \$6 million in these targeted efforts throughout the state.

Background

Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF) is the only statewide private foundation focused on improving the health of all children in Illinois. ILCHF was created in December 2002 through an action of the State of Illinois Attorney General's Office and a group of Illinois insurance carriers. This action established ILCHF, which was initially endowed with an investment of approximately \$125 million. From the Foundation's inception through 2012, a total of more than \$53 million in grants has been invested in over 280 programs aimed at improving overall children's health in Illinois. For additional information about ILCHF, visit www.ilchf.org.