



Illinois Children's
Healthcare Foundation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Tammy Lemke, President

tammylemke@ilchf.org

630.571.2555

**ILLINOIS CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE FOUNDATION (ILCHF)
INVESTS IN EXPANDING CHILDREN'S
MENTAL HEALTH SYSTEMS OF CARE ACROSS STATE**

Oak Brook, IL (Wednesday, August 17, 2011) - The Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation announced today a major investment in four communities across the state for the implementation phase of the Children's Mental Health Initiative, *Building Systems of Care, Community by Community* (CMHI). The CMHI is a multi-year, multi-million dollar initiative to support community-generated plans for a diverse range of comprehensive, creative models. Evidence-based practices will promote the full potential of every child and youth by addressing their physical, emotional, intellectual, cultural and social needs in Adams County; the 4-county area of Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside Counties; Livingston County; and the City of Springfield.

"Each community will be tackling the lack of coordination and integration among its community's services and systems that support children and their families. Children often fall through the cracks," said Tammy Lemke, President of Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation. "During the past year, we funded each of the CMHI communities to perform a thorough examination and analysis of their community's current systems. They used that information to develop a formal strategic plan to remodel their service delivery system and plans to sustain their efforts. Perhaps most important, they developed partnerships with all the relevant, formal and informal, community services that will be integral to their ultimate success."

The current service system for children's development emphasizes treatment. The CMHI is supporting systems that will ensure that all children receive, at the earliest point, prevention, early intervention, and treatment. Ms. Lemke noted, "A unique aspect of the CMHI requires communities to incorporate the principles of a medical home in their system of care. They have integrated the work of behavioral health and primary care providers in their plans. Consistent with ILCHF's philosophy, we are investing our funds to ensure access for all children to high quality, consistent primary care informed by knowledge of a child across the developmental lifespan, with a primary focus on prevention."

Charles Box, Board Chair, emphasized, "The ILCHF Board of Directors is enthusiastic to be investing in these four communities. We are committing support for their implementation plans over a five-year period. An essential component of the CMHI is our evaluation plan. We will assess the extent to which the strength of the community collaboration, program infrastructure, philosophy, services, and funding can be sustained."

ILCHF has retained NTI Upstream, Inc. to provide ongoing technical assistance, training and consultation for the CMHI communities. NTI will also conduct an ongoing, cross-site evaluation during the CMHI implementation, and will aid the Foundation Board in determining the relevant factors that have influenced the sustainability of their investment.

ILCHF is investing up to \$2 million in each of the following communities to implement their children's mental health system of care plan for all children from birth through the age of 18.

Adams County. *Adams County Children's Mental Health Partnership's* plan focuses on integrating mental health services into all the primary care settings in their Community. Screenings will be used in a systematic way as a part of routine medical care to identify children and adolescents who are high-risk. Another fundamental strategy in the plan is to further expand on the PBIS system's in the school district to ensure comprehensive screenings are completed in specific grades at the schools.

Carroll, Lee, Ogle and Whiteside Counties. *Community That Cares'* plan focuses on enhanced care coordination, health promotion and prevention initiatives across a 4-county area. The Community will focus their work on developing integrated networks of care with health departments, schools, early childhood centers, primary care sites, and other social service agencies across the four counties. Parent and family involvement is a core component of the plan.

City of Springfield. *The Children's MOSAIC Project's* plan focuses on building a mental health system of care by targeting three specific settings: high risk neighborhoods where children live, schools where children learn and primary health care setting – medical homes. The Community's focus on neighborhoods will target areas that need more intensive efforts of engagement and support.

Livingston County. *Livingston County Children's Network's* plan focuses on implementing a public health approach and providing prevention services universally. The Community will use an expanded approach to school-based mental health services in the coordination and integration of their system in a rural setting. In addition, the Community will focus on developing integrated care in primary care settings.

###

About Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation

Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation (ILCHF) is the only statewide private foundation focused on improving the health of all children in the State of 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 the ILCHF, which was initially endowed with an investment of approximately \$125 million. In 2007, ILCHF announced its first major initiative in the area of oral health. The ILCHF Board committed more than \$20 million over five years to build the capacity of the safety net system, workforce development and public education and awareness. During that same period, ILCHF committed more than \$5 million to 25 programs that integrated mental health and primary care services in a medical home model. In September 2009, ILCHF launched the Children's Mental Health Initiative, *Building Systems of Care, Community by Community*.

From the Foundation's inception through 2010, ILCHF has invested more than \$42 million in grants statewide in over 270 programs. For additional information about ILCHF, please see www.ilchf.org.

###