

# **HEALTHY FAMILIES ILLINOIS REGIONAL CLUSTER GROUP MEETING**

## **SUMMARY**

**Date of Meeting: September 26, 2017 Location: YMCA Chicago**

### **Sites in Attendance:**

**Metropolitan Family Services**

**Advocate Illinois Masonic**

**YMCA**

**Chicago Public Health Department**

**Pilsen Wellness Center**

### **Guests in Attendance:**

**Elaine Duensing, PCA Illinois**

### **Major Issues Discussed:**

- Agency Updates
  - Erika's program is closing. Their doula's last day was the 13<sup>th</sup> and one FSW transitioned at the end of August. One FSW is closing the office with Erika. They have given IDHS 30 days and will end around October 30. Only two hfi families that want to transition, Erika is trying to find programs to serve them.
  - Maria Espejel– Pilsen Wellness Center – is needing to hire two FSW's. The numbers in group are lower due to immigration concerns.
  - Sara reports that Advocate Illinois Masonic continues to move forward. They have a doula on medical leave so hired a contractual doula. Their numbers are also low. There have been changes in health care which is impacting referrals since they come from the hospital.
  - Metropolitan Family Services – HFI has started up again at north location with only one staff person at this point. Two FSW coming on in the next couple weeks. Need to hire one more FSW and a supervisor.
  - Austin peoples action center has closed their hfi program.

- Updates from Elaine:
  - HFI Summit October 18<sup>th</sup> - Jim Gill is the presenter. The Ounce of Prevention TA staff will present on new HFA items including the best practice standards.
  - Conference is October 19 & 20, in Lisle.
  
- Changes in HFA standards
  - HFA to set up monthly calls to review changes in standards
  
- Immigration issues affecting families we serve
  - What are we seeing? There is a decrease in group attendance. Individuals don't want to come because they are scared. They are afraid that they might be picked up in the street. Additionally, folks don't open the door –Maria lost 6 participants immediately and 80% of her program participants are DACA.

Some information for DACA folks: There is a support group. The Mexican consulate is providing financial support for DACA folks to pay their renewal. Must renew before October 5 if they expire in March 2018. Call and make an appointment with the consulate. There is a waitlist.

- Focus group at the Ounce of Prevention for home visitors on 9/27 for an hour 10 – 11 coworker is going. As many as home visitors to gather information. Sara will forward the contact information.

- Open Discussion

**Trainings/ Presentations**

**None**

**Issues/Questions/Needs to be brought to state system level**

**None**

**Program Committee Topic Suggestions**

**None**

**Date & Location of Next Meeting: December 5, 2- 4**