

## **Sen. Durbin Announces Saint Anthony Hospital’s Community Wellness Program Plans to Expand Services for Violence Victims with \$1 Million VOCA Grant**



*Sen. Durbin announces that the Saint Anthony Hospital Community Wellness Program has received a \$1 million grant from VOCA, expanding services for violence victims.*

**CHICAGO**, March 19, 2018 – Violence continues to be an ongoing problem in the city of Chicago, especially in some of the more at-risk communities that Saint Anthony Hospital serves. In 2016, the hospital’s emergency department saw 305 community violence-caused admissions. It often leaves victims distraught, but they lack access to the mental health services they desperately need.

To help address this local epidemic and need for early intervention points and referrals to victim services, Sen. Dick Durbin announced today that the Community Wellness Program at Saint Anthony Hospital has received a \$1 million grant from the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA).

“The grant announced today will help Saint Anthony partner with community organizations and increase mental health services to victims of violence — so after physical injuries heal, emotional scars can be treated, too,” Durbin said. “I will continue to fight for funding that will provide trauma-informed mental health services, so we can uplift our communities and help prevent violence.”

“Unfortunately, our community has a high incident of trauma,” said Arturo Carrillo, PhD, a licensed clinical social worker and Program Manager of the Saint Anthony Hospital Community Wellness Program. “The program has a long-established history of working in partnership with community organizations that have taken distinct approaches to address violence. With this grant, we can now expand high-quality, long-term support for individuals and families at no cost.”

Based on the hospital’s most recent community health needs assessment, this was an area of focus with 64 percent of respondents ranking community violence as major problem and 82 percent finding mental health as an even larger issue.

“Saint Anthony Hospital sits in an area where health care access should be more abundant, but our systems are failing, and we realized we need to make an investment to meet the demands for these types of services in our community,” said Jim Sifuentes, Senior Vice President for Mission and Community Development at Saint Anthony Hospital. “It is at the core of Saint

Anthony's mission to provide services that are needed. The work our mental health team is doing truly reflects the ongoing dedication of our organization to the communities it serves."

Funding from this grant will focus on intervention in a high-need area of Chicago, which includes four core communities – North and South Lawndale, Brighton Park, and New City (Back of the Yards and Canaryville). Four crisis response teams, comprised of supervisors, crisis intervention / case management workers and clinicians, will be developed and based in each representative area, along with a program evaluator who will assess and track progress toward quality outcomes.

The Community Wellness team will work alongside several other community organizations to ensure this program's success. Partners include: North Lawndale Community Restorative Justice Hub, headed by the Lawndale Christian Legal Clinic, The Marshall Square Resource Network, headed by Latinos Progresando, Universidad Popular, Brighton Park Neighborhood Network, headed by the Brighton Park Neighborhood Council, the Peace and Education Coalition, and Port Ministries.

"The goal of this program is to treat patients preventatively to avoid violence and more serious consequences in the long run," added Dr. Carrillo.

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**About Saint Anthony Hospital**

For more than a century, Saint Anthony Hospital has been a community-centered organization, serving more than 400,000 residents on Chicago's West and Southwest Sides. Saint Anthony Hospital, its affiliated clinics and community wellness centers provide quality health and wellness services, as well as a wide variety of free bilingual community health education and outreach programs.