



Agency Spotlight: Family Focus

The mission of Family Focus is to promote the well-being of children from birth by supporting and strengthening families in and with their communities. In the City of Aurora, Family Focus is open to all community members who seek assistance in areas of parenting support, after school programming, doula (birth coach) services, fatherhood support, early childhood programs, and immigration services, among other issues that face families every day.

The INC Board-funded Community Service Liaison Program has enabled Family Focus to implement best practices in coordination and intake for community access and retention in mental health services specifically to Latino individuals and families in Aurora. The program focuses outreach on the Latino community that lack access, knowledge or have been reticent to access services due to perceived stigma around mental health services. Due to recent legal decisions and changes in immigration law and procedures, many families limit their access to services even in times of increased need. Family Focus represents a trusted resource to provide international educational sessions to participants in all Family Focus programs to increase awareness of the services.

The intake process leverages the deep relationships between Family Focus participants and other Aurora community partners. The goals of the program include increased access to mental health services, improvement in the perception of mental health, and increased knowledge of mental health services in the community. These outcomes are achieved through monthly meetings and attending community events. The number of participants being served continues to increase. From July 1-September 30, 2018 more than 140 community members were connected to mental health service, an increase of 50 participants from the previous quarter.



Executive Director to Retire

After working for INC for over 28 years, the last 17 as Executive Director, Jerry Murphy has decided to retire, effective no later than June 30, 2019.

The INC Board will be establishing a search committee for Murphy's successor in the very near future.

Jerry plans to move to the Madison, WI area, joining the rest of his immediate family. He also plans on remaining a Chicago Bears fan, despite moving to the Land of Cheese.



Kane County Launches 211

Kane County residents can now dial 2-1-1 and get connected with a live specialist who will help them meet their needs for many different resources. The three United Way organizations in Kane County, Kane County school districts, Kane County government, and local community organizations have joined forces to fund a free, centralized resource for people who need help. 2-1-1 can connect callers to local resources including senior services, support groups, health care, shelter, counseling and other support services.

2-1-1 is confidential and will be able to help point individuals in the right

direction. This service is available 24/7 and no computer or Internet is required. Translation is available in more than 150 languages and callers of all ages can use the service as often as needed.

Comcast, AT&T, Mediacom, Verizon, and others went live on Nov. 1, but there are more than 100 phone carriers in Illinois. If your carrier does not allow access, contact the 211 call center using the toll-free number: 888-865-9903. PATH, the call center fielding the calls, will contact your carrier and you can still ask your questions in the same call.

More can be learned about the 2-1-1 service by watching this [video](#). For questions, [click here](#).

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS
FROM THE INC BOARD AND
STAFF!!!!**

