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News Release

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CITY COUNCIL APPROVES AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION SERVICES TO CHA RESIDENTS

The City Council today approved an ordinance to execute an Intergovernmental Agreement between the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA) to jointly fund substance abuse prevention and education services for CHA residents.

Under the agreement CDPH will provide a grant to help support CHA's program to connect residents seeking substance abuse treatment services with treatment providers. The program will also educate residents about the consequences of alcohol and drug addiction.

"This is an example of the type of strategic partnerships we need to continue to develop in order bring services closer to the communities and neighborhoods where residents and their families live," said Mayor Richard M. Daley.

The program will also provide training for CHA staff and case management providers on a variety of substance abuse topics. Caritas, a not-for-profit community based substance abuse provider has been selected by CHA to provide the direct services.

"Providing substance abuse services, especially to our most vulnerable populations, ultimately improves the health and wellbeing of all Chicagoans," said CDPH Commissioner Bechara Choucair, M.D.

Substance abuse continues to be a problem across the country. According to the 2009 US Department of Health and Human Services, National Survey on Drug Use and Health, an estimated 22.5 million persons aged 12 and older were classified with substance abuse or dependence in the past year.

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