



Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Jo Ann Dollard
847/390-1446

Marvin L. Sykes Named Chair of Head Start Citywide Parent Policy Council

On January 21, Marvin L. Sykes of Chicago was installed as the 2011 chairperson of the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services Citywide Parent Policy Council for Head Start. The installation followed a training session for new members of the Council, which was held at Chicago's Washington Park Refectory. Sykes has served for one year as a delegate to the Citywide Parent Policy Council for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI), which runs five Head Start sites in Chicago. He also served as the Council's finance chairperson during the past year.

Sykes, whose younger daughter attends LSSI's North Austin Head Start, was himself a Head Start student. As for his goals for his yearlong term, Sykes says, "I want to get all the parents involved [in Head Start] like I am involved. Parents need to take a step up and be a role model for their kids." He adds, "Head Start is the best start. It's our chance to make a difference in our children's lives."

LSSI's Head Start sites are in Humboldt Park, North Austin, Rogers Park, Uptown and West Englewood. Sykes notes that he likes Lutheran Social Services of Illinois because the agency is family-oriented and "works with the parents together as a unit."

"This is a great honor for LSSI," says Carol Endemann, associate executive director of Community Child Care at LSSI. "And Marvin is a huge advocate of Head Start."

Being involved in the parent group has "been a very positive experience for me, and I hope to be a positive example for the other parents," Sykes says.

Founded in 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois is a statewide, not-for-profit social service agency of the three Illinois synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. LSSI serves people through an array of services at approximately 83 sites across Illinois. For more information on LSSI, visit www.LSSI.org or its Facebook page.

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