

News

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORD MEETS WITH LOCAL LEADERS DURING SUMMIT ON YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Legislator working to give youth more counseling opportunities

CHICAGO – State Rep. La Shawn K. Ford (D-Chicago) held a summit on youth violence prevention Monday aimed at helping public schools in his district to better deal with crisis intervention and conflict resolution problems among young people.

“Our public schools are overburdened with all kinds of issues, and that is especially true of school counselors who may be responsible for hundreds of students at a time,” Ford said. “We need to lessen that burden by getting community health organizations directly involved in the prevention of violence and conflict.”

The agenda for the summit included a review of each attending organization’s capabilities to help young people manage crisis intervention and conflict resolution, and an assessment of each health care provider’s availability to assist in responding to those needs. The summit’s ultimate goal was to encourage health care organizations to collaborate with schools that have a need for assistance with youth violence prevention and counseling.

“We already have resources available to make sure young people don’t use violence to solve their problems,” Ford said. “Our job is to make these resources are delivered in new ways. We were fortunate to have such a broad cross-section of schools and community health organizations in attendance, and we have taken some big steps forward.”

Health care providers in attendance included Loretto Hospital, Hartgrove Hospital, Circle Family Care, Family Service & Mental Health Center of Oak Park & River Forest, Chicago Board of Education Crisis Intervention Services, and Access Community Health Network. Schools included Spencer Elementary Math & Science Academy, Henry H. Nash Elementary, McNair Elementary, Joseph Lovett Elementary, Leslie Lewis Elementary, Armstrong Elementary, John Hay Community Academy, and Michele Clark Academic Preparatory High School.

For more information on the summit or any other issue, contact Rep. Ford’s constituent service office at (773) 378-5902.

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