

REACH/Alcance Program Coalition News

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Issue 1



Mommy & Me Support Group

The REACH/Alcance Program is currently hosting a **Mommy & Me Support Group** by Community Healthcare Workers (CHW). The meetings are for women who are pregnant or that have children. The support group helps with provide prenatal education and assistance with how to care for their baby and community resource information.



The meetings average between 10-15 Moms from the East Chicago and Hammond area Meetings are held every Thursday, 11:00 am-12:00 pm., at Healthy East Chicago, in East Chicago, IN. Come join us and chat among friends! The CHW's assist not only to provide education but also to **identify needs**.

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Healthy in Any Language



Pictured are the students.

From left to right front row: Maria Schwieter, Susana Jimenez, Jessica Starkey, Isabel Reyes, Mary Ellen Castello, Maria Anaya, Noemi Orellana, Carmen Vazquez, Lillian Torres
From left to right back row: Brenda Osoria, Jose Valtierra, Bilke Rode, Sylvia Morrisroe, and Maria Watkins

[NWL.com Times article](#)

CROWN POINT | The REACH/Alcance Program, in partnership with Area Health Education Center and HealthVisions Midwest, held a five-week medical interpreter course this spring at the Purdue University Learning Center.

A total of 13 area health care workers and medical technicians from agencies ranging from Moms Taking Charge in Lake County to Healthline in Porter County were trained in medical terminology for the purpose of providing medical interpreting for their prospective agencies in Spanish and sustainability of language availability.

The curriculum consists of the basic requirements to become a professional English/Spanish medical interpreter, and the instructor, Maria Schwieter, is a RN, BSN, MSE, BTG, and the Spanish interpreter/educator at IU Health La Porte Hospital.

The students learned about the cultural aspects of interpreting, memory training, folk medicine, note taking, basic anatomy, physiology and medical terminology, roles of the interpreter and the purpose of the medical interpreter.

Prenatal Helpline Media Campaign



(Mommy & me from 1st page)

The Community Healthcare Worker is an internationally recognized model to mobilize Latino community members for disease prevention, health promotion and community building.

Community Healthcare Workers can **improve quality** by contributing to patient-provider communication and help to provide a multi-faceted approach to care by assisting to **extend continuity of care** outside the Doctor's office.

Research has shown effectiveness of CHWs has been documented and recognized for a variety of health care concerns, including asthma, hypertension, diabetes, cancer, immunizations, maternal and child health, nutrition, tuberculosis, and HIV/AIDS.

National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Policy Brief

http://www.cdc.gov/dhdsp/docs/chw_brief.pdf

In partnership with other organizations, Alcance launches its media to campaign to formally announce the Lake County Prenatal Helpline. The Helpline was made possible through funding from the REACH grant, in effort to reduce health disparities and infant mortality.

REACH/Alcance Program & Coalition (Racial Ethnic Approaches to Community Health) For Lake County

The REACH/Alcance Coalition aims to improve the health of all racial and ethnic populations in Indiana through increased awareness, partnerships, and the development and promotion of effective health policies and programs that help to reduce minority health disparities.

The Alcance Coalition

Sub-committees are currently working on new and exciting changes for Lake County and Northwest Indiana.

Committee 1 – Goals are to increase the number of accessible services to Hispanic pregnant women in South County.

Committee 2 – Goals are to (Coalition Meeting at HealthVisions Midwest) Submit for policy considerations to help increase Medicaid services to pregnant Hispanic women at the state level.

Committee 3 – Goals are to expand Medical Interpreting services in Lake County, in Indiana.



**Become a member of growing a coalition
That helps increase awareness for our community!**

Coalition meetings are held

The fourth Wednesday of every **other month**

From 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

HealthVisions Midwest is sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ



**If you or your organization is interested in joining the
REACH/Alcance Program & Coalition please contact
Raquel Castro (219) 844-2698 Ext. 102
Visit us at www.reach-alcance.org**