

## HABILITATIVE SYSTEMS, INC. & BOBBY E. WRIGHT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTER OPENING COMMUNITY TRIAGE WELLNESS CENTER



*Donald Dew, CEO of Habilitative Systems, Inc., warns a meeting of West Side Black Elected Officials that families of children with special needs are failing to obtain required services from CPS or local agencies and this is a critical mental health threat. (Photo by Brad)*

At the December meeting of the West Side Black Elected Officials, Donald Dew, CEO of Habilitative Systems, Inc., warned that many families of children with special needs are failing to obtain the services they need from the Chicago Public Schools and are slipping between the cracks because many of these

specialized care services are not available on the West Side. As a result of Mr. Dew's statement, a Behavioral Health Committee was formed. Dew went on to explain that there are "Social Determinants of Health that underlie many of the mental health and addictive disorders we see in our community." As a result of this meeting and a recent meeting of Commissioner Dennis Deer's Mental Health Task Force, it was determined more community engagement and impact would occur if efforts were combined.

Recently, Cook County Health & Hospital Systems funded Habilitative Systems, Inc. in partnership with Bobby E. Wright Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center to develop a Westside Community Triage and Wellness Center. Although this center is scheduled to open in early 2018, the two managing agencies decided to provide services immediately.

The first program of this agency partnership is a seminar entitled, *Mental Health, Opioid Addiction Prevention, and Wellness for Our Children and families: A Call To Action*. This program is being held Friday, December 22, 8:30 AM-12:00 Noon, at Hartgrove Hospital, 5730 West Roosevelt Road.