

## **CLOCC Technical Assistance Meeting Summary March 3-4, 2008**

On March 3-4, 2008, the Health Council of East Central Florida, Inc., along with the Blue Foundation and the Winter Park Health Foundation, sponsored a Technical Assistance Workshop conducted by Katherine Kaufer Christoffel, MD, MPH, Founder, Medical & Research Director, and Adam Becker, Ph.D., Executive Director, of the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC). The Health Council applied for the technical assistance from CLOCC, who had received Robert Wood Johnson Foundation support to train four communities in the United States this year. Our event was covered by local media, who have expressed interest in ongoing coverage of work undertaken as a result of this technical assistance.

The mission of CLOCC is to confront the childhood obesity epidemic through promotion of a healthy and active lifestyle. The CLOCC working groups foster and facilitate connections between researchers, public health advocates, practitioners and the children and families of Chicago.

The 2-day workshop, attended by nearly 100 community stakeholders in Central Florida, was intended to assist the region with the development of a community-wide initiative to address local childhood obesity issues. CLOCC representatives presented detailed information on the history, structure, programs, accomplishments, and future direction of the consortium. Attendees participated in group discussions to confer on the feasibility of replicating a CLOCC-like consortium model in the four-county area that encompasses Brevard, Orange, Osceola and Seminole counties. Information gleaned from these workgroup deliberations overwhelmingly supported the formation of a unified obesity prevention partnership similar to the best practice model used in Chicago. The Health Council was viewed as the regional planning body with the capability and expertise to develop a business plan to create an obesity consortium and to construct a CLOCC-like website as soon as possible. The website is intended to facilitate ongoing networking and communication between the community partners who are already engaged in this process.