



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 28, 2022

Employee Recognition

Congratulations to the entire team on the resumption of ambulance runs at **Provident Hospital** for the first time in more than a decade. In the first week, Provident welcomed more than 70 ambulances.

The **Cook County Health cardiology team** was recognized with several “Get With the Guidelines” awards by the American Heart Association. CCH earned gold awards for heart failure treatment and STEMI care, and a silver award for non-STEMI care.

The **My Shot** COVID vaccine campaign won its 11th award – a Pinnacle Award from the Illinois Society for Healthcare Marketing and Public Relations.



CountyCare’s Choice Campaign “CountyCare is There” won its third campaign award - a Pinnacle Award from the Illinois Society for Healthcare Marketing and Public Relations.



COVID-19 Update

Chicago and suburban Cook County are in low transmission. Efforts continue to vaccinate and boost eligible populations continue. Cook County Health and the Cook County Department of Public Health are now offering the bivalent COVID vaccines to all eligible populations. As of October 26th, CCH has administered 1,023,424 doses of COVID vaccine.

Recent and Upcoming Events

On October 6th, **CCH and the US Navy** announced an expanded training partnership for US Navy medical personnel. Under the expanded partnership, a Navy Expeditionary Resuscitative Surgical System (ERSS) team will work at Stroger Hospital on 3-year deployable orders. The first 9-month rotation began the first week of October 2022. At the conclusion of the initial rotation, the ERSS team will participate in additional training at the Naval Expeditionary Medical Training Institute (NEMTI) and then be deployed. After deployment, the ERSS team will return to Stroger to sustain their skills, continue to work as trauma team, and be ready for additional deployment when called upon until the conclusion of their orders.

On October 8th, CCH CEO Israel Rocha presented “**Bridging the Gap for the Latino Community**” at the Medical Organization for Latino Advancement (MOLA) 6th Annual Latino Health Symposium.

On October 16th, CCH held a press conference to announce the **resumption of ambulance runs** at Provident Hospital. This press conference yielded 60 news stories, including several national stories with a reach of 440M and an advertising equivalency of \$4.1M.

On Tuesday, October 25th, CCH held a Halloween themed press conference to raise awareness around **COVID, Flu and RSV**. This press conference yielded 74 news hits with a reach of 407.4M and an advertising equivalency of \$3.8M.

On Wednesday, October 26th, CCH held a press conference on Health Equity announcing grants that will be available for behavioral health services through CCDPH as well as to introduce Change Institute leadership and outlining goals for the initial disease states that the Institute will address (cancer, stroke and heart disease).

On October 27th, CCH held a hiring fair for part-time police officers for the hospital registry team.

On November 7th, CCH will hold a nursing job fair. See attached flyer.

Food As Medicine

As access to healthy food remains a great need for our patients and communities, the Fresh Truck partnership between Cook County Health (CCH) and the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) continues. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic required CCH and GCFD to develop and implement revised protocols for the Fresh Truck distributions that allow for appropriate screenings and social distancing to protect patients, as well as CCH and GCFD staff and volunteers. These revised protocols are in place until further notice.

Through October 19, CCH’s Fresh Truck partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) resulted in 415 visits to CCH health centers – Arlington Heights, Austin, Belmont Cragin, Blue Island, the CORE Center, Cottage Grove, Englewood, North Riverside, Provident/Sengstacke, Prieto, and Robbins.



Collectively, the Fresh Truck distributions have resulted in the provision of fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as some shelf stable items during the COVID-19 pandemic, to an estimated 43,747 households, representing 144,565 individuals. Most of the individuals benefiting from the Fresh Truck screened positive for food insecurity at a CCH health center visit.

The Greater Chicago Food Depository's Fresh Food Truck visits for the month of November include the following ACHN Health Centers.

- November 3 – **Prieto Health Center** – 2424 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60623
- November 8 – **Provident Hospital/Sengstacke Health Center** – 500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- November 17 – **Arlington Heights** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- November 18 – **CORE Center** – 2020 W. Harrison Street, Chicago, IL 60612
- November 29 – **Blue Island Health Center** – 12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

CCH Community Advisory Councils

Cook County Health Advisory Councils include patients, community and religious organizations and serve as a way to promote our services in the communities where our centers are located. The Councils provide feedback to our staff and help strengthen our health center's relationships in the community. The councils meet quarterly to provide current information on Cook County Health and as an avenue for members to share information about their organizations.

The 2022 Fourth Quarter topic presentations include the 2023 CCH Budget, Cancer Services, the Housing Authority of Cook County and the CountyCare's Medicaid Open Enrollment. In addition, updates on Cook County Health, Covid-19 Vaccination and Community Outreach are provided. Each clinic also does an update on its operations at the meeting.

Upcoming CAC meeting dates, including the 2022 schedule:

Provident Hospital/Sengstacke Health Center: Wednesday at 9:00 AM: October 12
500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609

Cottage Grove: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: October 25
1645 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411

Blue Island: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: November 16
12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

Arlington Heights: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: November 29
3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Robbins: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: December 13
13450 S. Kedzie Road, Robbins, IL 60472

North Riverside: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: December 14
1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546

Englewood: Thursday at 1:00 PM - December 15
1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621

Upcoming Event Participation

Cook County Health and CountyCare will be present at events to promote the health system and the health plan. Events in the month of November include the following:

- November 5 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **2022 Fall Health Fair** which is hosted by **Representative Will Guzzardi and Senator Cristina Pacione-Zayas** and which will take place at the Kosciuszko Park Field House located at 2732 N. Avers Avenue in Chicago.

- November 5 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Kick It Cancer Resource Fair** which is hosted by **The Cancer Support Center** and which will take place at Prairie State College located at 202 S. Halsted Street in Chicago Heights.

- November 9 CountyCare's **Enrollee Advisory Committee Meeting** will take place virtually and have presentations on mental health, CountyCare programs and initiatives. The EAC occurs once a quarter and provides a forum for CountyCare staff to talk to plan members about their experiences and to obtain feedback on how to improve the plan's offerings.

- November 12 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Community Care Fair in the Pilsen Community** which is hosted by **Blue Cross of Illinois** and which will take place at the Cristo Rey Jesuit High School located at 1852 West 22nd Place in Chicago.

- November 12 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Sisters Working It Out Annual Day of Beauty for All Cancer Survivors** which is taking place at the Morgan Park Center located at 11840 S. Marshfield Avenue in Chicago.

Legislative Update

Local

- On October 18 CCH appeared before the Cook County Health & Hospitals Committee and presented the Monthly COVID-19 Vaccination Program and Contact Tracing Update. An overview of the system's response to Monkeypox virus was also included. Additional agenda items included CCH's Strategic Plan and Financial Forecast which was approved and CCH's Q2-2022 Mental Health Report.
- On October 18, the Cook County Legislation and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee met to consider appointments to the Cook County Health Board of Directors. The appointment of Sam Robinson was approved.

The terms of CCH Board Directors Mary Gugenheim and David Munar expired in October. The terms of CCH Board Directors Heather Prendergast and Mike Koetting are scheduled to expire in the coming months.

Pursuant to County Ordinance, the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System (NomCom) is required to submit three (3) candidates for each vacancy to the County Board President for consideration. The Nominating Committee met on October 24, 2022 to consider additional candidates to submit to the President for consideration.

- At the October 20 Cook County Board meeting a resolution was approved recognizing CountyCare's 10th Anniversary.
- President Preckwinkle introduced the FY23 Cook County Executive Budget Recommendation to the Cook County Board at a Special meeting in early October. The Cook County Finance conducted public hearings on the FY23 Budget in mid-October. On October 25, CEO Israel Rocha and CFO Pam Cassara, along with CCH Board Chairman Lyndon Taylor and CCH Board Finance Committee Chairman Bob Reiter, appeared before the Cook County Finance Committee to provide an overview of the CCH FY 2023 Budget. The Cook County Board is expected to approve the FY2023 Annual Appropriation Ordinance in November.
- November 8 is Election Day. The Cook County Board President and all 17 Cook County Board Commissioner seats are up for election.

State

- The 2022 Fall Session is scheduled for November 15-17 and November 29-December 1. While these days are often referred to as "Veto Session", the Governor did not veto any legislation from the Spring 2022 session. The Fall Session will follow the statewide general election on November 8.

Legislators have been asked to hold January 4 – 10, 2023 for possible "lame duck" session days that may also be scheduled for early 2023, prior to the inauguration of the 103rd General Assembly. Legislation passed in the lame duck session would only require a simple majority for an immediate effective date. The 2023 spring session calendar has not been posted.

- The [second round of Healthcare Transformation Collaboratives](#) was announced earlier this month. The funded projects total \$70M and include six projects, with five in the Chicagoland area. CCH is not currently a participant in any of the six projects.

According to the press release, HFS may consider funding additional projects to be announced later in the fiscal year. A total of \$150M is available for these projects in the current state fiscal year, which ends June 30.

Federal

- Congress is in recess until the second week of November, after the midterm elections.
- **Continuing Resolution** – On September 29, the Senate passed the Appropriations and Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023, or continuing resolution (CR), to fund the government through December 16, 2022. The House followed suit the next day, with the President signing the measure into law before the midnight end of the fiscal year, averting a government shutdown.

As reported in September, the CR does not include supplemental funding requested by the Administration for COVID or monkeypox response. It does provide \$1.775 billion in additional funds for FY 2023 (and available through FY 2025) for U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Administration for Children and Families to address increased costs in refugee and entrant assistance programs. Additionally, it provides \$62 million to support the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and provide services to 988 callers for the duration of the CR.

- **FY 2023 Appropriations Year-End Omnibus** – Whether Congress can reach a bipartisan, bicameral agreement on annual appropriations levels will not become clear until after the November mid-term elections. The need for emergency relief for the enormous damage Hurricane Ian inflicted in Florida, the Caribbean and other states in its path, will doubtless contribute to the incentives for reaching a bipartisan agreement on a year-end package. Advocacy is ongoing for various health priorities to be included in a potential year-end omnibus appropriations bill. Conversations between top Republican appropriators and the Administration on supplemental funding for COVID and monkeypox have resumed. Cook County is continuing to support the National Association of Counties (NACo) call for bipartisan mental health provisions, including provisions to lift the Medicaid inmate exclusion, to be included. America's Essential Hospitals continues to advocate for \$7 billion in targeted fiscal assistance for safety net hospitals, and other measures, which could be incorporated into a year-end bill.
- **Biden Administration** – On September 27, the White House released a national strategy for ending hunger in the U.S. Over the next ten years, the strategy aims to expand access to free school meals for an additional nine million children and improve access to healthy food. Congressional approval would be required to achieve the goal of expanding SNAP and also to authorize a Medicare pilot to test medically tailored meals and to expand Medicaid and Medicare nutrition and obesity counseling benefits.

On September 28, the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia ruled that HHS must restore full 340B payments for the rest of the year. This comes on the heels of a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in June that required HHS to compensate providers for payments reduced in prior years due to a "defective" reimbursement rate. AEH and other national hospital organizations were plaintiffs in the case.

On October 3, HHS and the U.S. Department of Labor announced \$346 million in grants to train nurses, community workers and public health professionals. Applicants are expected to propose models aimed at training workers from marginalized communities.

On October 13, HHS announced that the COVID Public Health Emergency (PHE) would extend another 90 days, until January 11, 2023. The Administration reaffirmed its commitment to give states and other stakeholders sixty-days' notice before the end of the PHE. Interested parties will be looking for an announcement on or around November 12, as many observers expect this to be the last extension.

On October 19, HHS announced new planning grant funding opportunities for states to prepare to develop Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) to address the national mental health crisis. The planning grants are intended to help states certify CCBHCs and to set up the Medicaid prospective payment system for reimbursing eligible services in the CCBHCs.