



# COOK COUNTY HEALTH

**ISRAEL ROCHA, JR.**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**December 9, 2022**

## **Employee Recognition**

John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. At a time when other governmental entities were getting out of health care delivery, Cook County's leaders invested in a new hospital to replace the nearly 100-year-old Cook County Hospital. When Stroger Hospital opened on December 12, 2002, it signaled that Cook County remained committed to serving the health needs of its residents, regardless of insurance or immigration status, or ability to pay. The County's commitment to providing access to care for all remains strong to this day, as we continue to take bold steps to ensure the highest levels of care for our patients. A celebration will be held to recognize the hospital's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Monday, December 12, 2022 at 4 p.m. in the Stroger Hospital Cafeteria. For more details and a video about the hospital's history visit [cookcountyhealth.org/stroger-hospital-20th-anniversary/](https://cookcountyhealth.org/stroger-hospital-20th-anniversary/).

After a thorough survey, the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC) will continue to accredit **Cermak Health Services** for its compliance with NCCHC's Standards for Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) in Correctional Facilities. Accreditation by NCCHC signifies that Cermak meets the nation's premier standards on correctional health care. Cermak is one of the few correctional health sites in the country that has an accredited OTP.

Cook County Health's current longest tenured physician, oncologist **Dr. Lily Hussein**, is celebrating her 50<sup>th</sup> year of service to the health system this month. Dr. Hussein graduated at the top of her class from the University of Baghdad College of Medicine in 1964 and completed her fellowship in oncology at Cook County Hospital. She was one of the first board certified oncologists at Cook County Hospital and has trained countless physicians since, ensuring excellence in future generations of cancer care teams. She treats her patients and their families with dignity and compassion while going above and beyond to provide expert care and comfort when they need it most.

The Illinois Commission on Diversity and Human Relations honored Cook County Department of Public Health Chief Operating Officer **Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck** at its 53rd annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Remembrance Dinner on November 19 in Palatine. The theme of this year's event was "Heeding Dr. King's Call for Health Care Equity." Dr. Hasbrouck was recognized for his role in advancing health care equity during the pandemic.

**Andrea Gibson**, Cook County Health Chief Strategy Officer, was selected to participate in the Carol Emmott Fellowship Class of 2023. Ms. Gibson was one of 21 women leaders selected across the U.S.. Participants represent large public and private healthcare systems, academic medical centers, health plans, healthcare performance improvement management, and specialty care companies. The Carol Emmott Fellowship is dedicated to increasing gender equity and diversity in healthcare by focusing on establishing pathways for accomplished women to senior healthcare leadership and governance positions.

**Dr. Benjamin Mba**, Associate Chair of Medicine for Faculty Development & Associate Program Director for the Internal Medicine Residency Program, was appointed the American College of Physicians (ACP) Illinois Northern Chapter Governor-elect Designee. Dr. Mba will start his four-year term as Governor in the Spring of 2024. As Governor, he will serve as the official representative of the College for the Illinois ACP-American College of Physicians, providing a link between members at the local level and leadership at the national level.

The National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA) Chicago Chapter recognized **Shannon Andrews**, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer with the Mark of Excellence for her exceptional years of public service. At the event, CCH Board of Directors Vice Chair and Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer (2<sup>nd</sup> District) was honored with the President's Award.

## **Activities and Announcements**

### **COVID-19 Update**

The Illinois Department of Public Health reported 5,724 cases of COVID-19 on Wednesday, November 30, nearly a week after the Thanksgiving holiday. This represents the largest number of daily cases reported since August.

Cook County Department of Public Health's (CCDPH) suburban jurisdiction remains in "low" transmission, however the entirety of Cook County, including the City of Chicago, is in "medium". Twelve other counties in western and southern Illinois are in "high".

Cook County Health and CCDPH continue to raise public awareness about the ongoing threat of COVID-19 and encourage all residents to take personal protective measures, including staying up to date on their booster shots, wearing a high-quality face mask when in close proximity to others, and taking an at-home COVID-19 test before socializing with others.

As of December 3, CCH has administered 1,025,735 doses of COVID vaccine.

### **Presentations of Note**

On Tuesday, December 6, CEO Rocha was a keynote panelist at the Crain's Chicago Business Hospital CEO Breakfast. He was joined by executives from Advocate Aurora Health, Rush University System for Health and University of Chicago Medicine.

### **Legislative Update**

#### **Local**

- The November 8 General Election resulted in four changes to the Cook County Board of Commissioners. The 5<sup>th</sup> District will be represented by Monica Gordon, the 8<sup>th</sup> District will be represented by Anthony Quezada, the 9<sup>th</sup> District will be represented by Maggie Trevor and the 13<sup>th</sup> District will be represented by Josina Morita. The new Cook County Board was sworn into office on December 5.

Thank you to outgoing Commissioners Deborah Sims (5<sup>th</sup> District), Luis Arroyo, Jr. (8<sup>th</sup> District), Peter Silvestri (9<sup>th</sup> District) and Larry Suffredin (13<sup>th</sup> District) for their long-standing support of Cook County Health.

- On November 15 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 CCDPH's 4<sup>th</sup> Quarterly Report on the Cook County Health Survey and Atlas which was approved and CCH's Q3-2022 Mental Health Report.
- On November 17 the Cook County Board approved the FY23 Annual Appropriations Ordinance. Two amendments to the CCH budget were approved; one amendment provides funding to support CountyCare members who are victims

of domestic violence and transition them to safe and stable housing environments; the second amendment authorizes CCH to exceed budgeted expenditures if additional patient revenues are received as long as expenditures do not exceed revenues. December 1 is the start of the Cook County FY23 Fiscal Year.

## State

- Following the November general elections, Democrats retained their hold on all statewide constitutional offices. With the exception of Alexi Giannoulias, all were incumbents:
  - Governor/Lt. Governor - JB Pritzker/Juliana Stratton
  - Attorney General - Kwame Raoul
  - Secretary of State - Alexi Giannoulias
  - Treasurer - Michael Frerichs
  - Comptroller - Susana Mendoza

Two Democratic judges were also elected to the State Supreme Court, allowing Democrats to retain control with a 5-3 majority.

Democrats will keep their supermajority in the Illinois House and Senate. Senate Democrats will have a 40-seat supermajority and House Democrats will also keep and add to their supermajority with 78 seats.

- Legislators returned to Springfield for the 2022 Fall Session 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.

Legislation included a negotiated amendment to the SAFE-T Act (criminal justice reform bill) that clarifies the intent of the original bill, including adding crimes that could qualify individuals for detention, but still allows judges to exercise discretion. Additionally, bipartisan legislative leaders agreed to bill language that will pay off the remaining \$1.36B in unemployment fund debt.

- Legislators have been asked to hold days in early January 2023 for “lame duck” session days, prior to the inauguration of the 103<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. Legislation passed in the lame duck session would only require a simple majority for an immediate effective date.

## Federal

- Congress returned to Washington the second week of November, after a mid-term election in which Senate Democrats held on to their slim 50-50 majority, with the potential to pick up an additional seat in the Georgia runoff election, December 6. Republicans won control of the House of Representatives, also with a majority in the single digits. To-do items for the lame duck session include all twelve FY 2023 appropriations bills, the FY 2023 National Defense Authorization bill, and a host of other priorities that Members and advocates would like to see ride on one of these must-pass bills.
- **Continuing Resolution** – The current FY 2023 stop-gap spending bill runs through December 16, 2022. Some leaders are eyeing a short-term extension to just before Christmas, to give themselves enough time to reach agreement on a full-year FY 2023 Omnibus.
- **FY 2023 Appropriations Year-End Omnibus** – Top House and Senate appropriators remain at loggerheads over the top-line defense and non-defense/domestic numbers. When agreement on those levels is reached the rest of the details can be settled relatively quickly. It looks like those negotiations may not begin in earnest until the outcome of the Georgia runoff is known. Nevertheless, there is a strong preference among leaders in both chambers and both parties to reach an agreement and pass an omnibus before the end of the year, since the alternative would be a year-long CR.

Advocacy is ongoing for various health priorities to be included in a potential year-end omnibus appropriations bill. 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 a new safety net hospital designation, which could be incorporated into a year-end bill. Many are calling for a package of maternal and child health provisions led by Rep. Robin Kelly to also be included.

- **Biden Administration** – On November 15, the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) sent a letter to Congress asking for just over \$8.25 billion new funding for COVID response in the lame duck session. According to OMB, the funds would be used to prepare for a potential winter surge, smooth the way to commercialization for vaccines and therapeutics, conduct research and treatment for long COVID, and develop new vaccines and treatments. An additional \$1 billion would go to overseas response. Republicans on Capitol Hill have continued to express skepticism over the need for new funds and promise oversight of the way that the previously appropriated funds have been spent.

On or before November 12, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services did not issue a sixty-day notice that the COVID public health emergency (PHE) would end, as scheduled, on January 11. This indicates that it will be allowed to continue for another 90 days, to mid-April.

## **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 November 28, CCH's Fresh Truck partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) resulted in 419 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 44,264 households, representing 146,261 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 December include the following ACHN Health Centers.

- December 1 – **Austin Health Center** - 4800 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60651
- December 6 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546
- December 13 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** - 1645 Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411
- December 15 – **Englewood Health Center** - 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- December 20 – **Robbins Health Center** - 13450 S. Kedzie Avenue, Robbins, IL 60472

## **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:

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

Provident Hospital/Sengstacke Health Center: Next meeting in 2023 (Date TBD)  
500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609

Cottage Grove: Next meeting in 2023 (Date TBD)  
1645 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411

Blue Island: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: (Date TBD)  
12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

Arlington Heights: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: (Date TBD)  
3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

IMPACT 2023 Focus Area 5