



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

ISRAEL ROCHA, JR.
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
February 24, 2023

Employee Recognition

January CCH Commitment to Excellence Awards:

- Qursheed Ali, RRT, Respiratory Department, Stroger Hospital
- Adewunmi Sulaiman, RRT, Respiratory Department, Stroger Hospital
- Dr. Ashlea Winfield, Emergency Medicine, Stroger Hospital
- Brian Alston, Health Information Systems
- Rene Jackson, Health Information Systems
- Melvin Williams, Inpatient /8 West, Provident Hospital
- Patient Care Team, Trauma Unit, Stroger Hospital

In celebration of Black History Month, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle joined Cook County Health for a discussion on health equity and health issues that impact the Black community. Thank you to **Shannon Andrews, Dr. Fegan, Dr. Whitten, Dr. Myhand, and Dr. McNeal** for a successful and insightful event.

Congratulations to these leaders who are graduating from the America's Essential Hospitals (AEH) Fellowship program this month.

- **Iliana Mora**, Chief Administrative Officer, Ambulatory Services
- **Dr. Whitney Lyn**, Attending Physician, Family & Community Medicine
- **Christina Urbina**, Director of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Activities and Announcements

- In celebration of **Black History Month**, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle joined Cook County Health for a discussion on health equity and health issues that impact the Black community. The recording of the February 16th event can be found on the CCH Facebook page.
- On February 22, Cook County Board President Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle; Cook County Health Chief Executive Officer Israel Rocha; and Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) Chief Operating Officer Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck held a press conference to announce the recipients of **\$14.7 million in CCDPH's Building Healthier Communities: Behavioral Health Initiative grants** to support behavioral health services, positive youth development, and opioid overdose prevention and harm-reduction programs throughout suburban Cook County.
- CEO Rocha completed internal meetings with staff across the system to share the **strategic plan** in detail and respond to questions. More than 600 staff participated in the all staff town hall meeting on February 15th and a community town hall is scheduled for March 15th.

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.

Through February 21, CCH's Fresh Truck partnership with GCFD resulted in 436 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 45,002 households, representing 148,663 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 March include the following ACHN Health Centers.

- March 2 – **Prieto Health Center** – 2424 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60623
- March 14 – **Provident Hospital/Sengstacke H.C.** – 500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- March 16 – **Arlington Heights** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- March 17 – **CORE Center** – 2020 W. Harrison Street, Chicago, IL 60612
- March 23 – **Blue Island Health Center** – 12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

Community Advisory Councils

Cook County Health Community Advisory Councils (CACs) include patients, community and religious organizations and serve as an opportunity 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 2023 First Quarter presentations included the CountyCare Rewards Program and Covid-19 updates. This quarter, topics will include redetermination, the end of the PHE emergency and service line updates. Upcoming CAC meeting dates:

Robbins: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: March 14, June 13, September 12, December 12
13450 S. Kedzie Road, Robbins, IL 60472

North Riverside: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: March 15, June 14, September 13, December 13
1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546

Englewood: Thursday at 1:00 PM: March 16, June 15, September 14, December 14
1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621

Provident/Sengstacke: Wednesday at 9:00 AM: April 12, July 12, October 11
500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609

Cottage Grove: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: April 25, July 25, October 24
1645 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411

Blue Island: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: May 17, August 16, November 15
12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

Arlington Heights: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: May 23, August 22, November 28
3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Community Outreach

Outreach staff will participate in the following events to promote both Cook County Health and CountyCare:

February 24, 2023 – Participation in the **Family Christian Health Center’s Resource Fair** which takes place at Turlington West Tent Council located at 15306 Robey Avenue, Harvey, 60426.

February 24, 2023 – Participation in the **National Black Nurses Day Planning Committee’s Nurses Delivering Care and Supporting Our Community** event which will be held at the Apostolic Faith Church located at 3823 S. Indiana Avenue in Chicago, 60653.

February 25, 2023 – Participation in the **Village of Hazel Crest’s Black History Month** event which takes place at the Vernard L. Alsberry, Jr. Municipal Center located at 3601 W. 183rd Street in Hazel Crest, 60429.

February 25, 2023 – Participation in the **Chicago Urban League’s 2nd Annual Wellness Fair** event which takes place at the Chicago Urban League’s offices located at 4510 S. Michigan Avenue in Chicago, 60653.

February 26, 2023 – Participation in the **Mt. Carmel Children of God Baptist Church** event which takes place at the church located at 5141 S. Damen in Chicago, 60609.

February 28, 2023 – CountyCare hosts is **Community Stakeholder Committee (CSC)** which provides presentations to community organizations on plan happenings which lead to more collaboration and resources for members. A heart month presentation by the American Heart Association is part of the program.

March 1, 2023 – Participation in the **Edmund Burke Elementary School’s Parent Advisory Council** which will take place at the school 5356 S. King Drive in Chicago, 60615.

March 9, 2023 – Participation in the **National Kidney Foundation of Illinois’s World Kidney Day** event which will take place at Bulger Park Community Center located at 1601 Hirsch Street in Melrose Park, 60160.

March 11, 2023 – Participation in the St. Paul Lutheran Church Health & Resource Fair which will take place at the church located at 6201 Vollmer Road in Matteson, 60443.

March 18, 2023 – Participation in the **M.E.A.N. Girls Empowerment’s Girls Health Matters Summit** event which will take place at the Hyde Park Academy High School located at 6220 S Stony Is Avenue in Chicago, 60637.

March 29, 2023 – Participation in the **Edmund Burke Elementary School’s Report Card Pickup** which will take place at the school 5356 S. King Drive in Chicago, 60615.

Legislative Update

Local

- On February 7, 2023, the Cook County Legislation & Intergovernmental Relations Committee met to consider the appointments of Tanya Sorrell and Mia Webster Cross to the CCH Board of Directors. Both appointments were approved by the committee and then ratified by the Cook County Board at the February 9 Cook County Board meeting.

Also on February 7, CCH appeared before the Cook County Health & Hospitals Committee and Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck, CCDPH COO presented the Monthly COVID-19 Vaccination Program Update.

State

- More than 6,000 bills and resolutions have been filed in the House and Senate. The deadline to pass bills out of committee of the originating chamber is March 10. The House and Senate are scheduled to adjourn May 19.
- CCH's legislative priorities for 2023 include:
 - [SB1670/HB2888](#) – Amends Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to ensure that HIPAA protected information is not subject to FOIA requests. This bill passed out of the Senate in 2022 with unanimous support and no opposition, but time ran out before it could pass the House.
 - [SB1953/HB2887](#) – Appropriations request for Equity and Representation in Health Care Act to fund scholarships and loan repayment for health care providers who work at Cook County Health or at Federally Qualified Health Centers. Funds were also included in the Governor's proposed FY2024 budget.
 - [SB122/HB1570](#) – Healthy Illinois Medicaid expansion that would provide Medicaid-like coverage to low-income adults 19-41 years of age, regardless of immigration status.

The Governor delivered his state of the state and FY2024 budget address on February 15. He highlighted plans to expand investments in early childhood education, housing, and higher education. The Governor also spoke about \$3M to fund the Equity and Representation in Health Care Act (PA 102-0942), legislation passed in the 2022 session by CCH and the Illinois Primary Health Care Association that creates a new loan repayment and scholarship program for clinical personnel working at CCH facilities (or FQHCs), with awards prioritized for individuals from demographics and backgrounds underrepresented in the health care sector.

Full text of the Governor's address can be found at www.illinois.gov/news/press-release. The legislature will draft a budget that will be voted on before the end of the session. Historically, when the legislature and the Governor are of the same political party, the legislature will use the Governor's proposed budget as a starting point for budget discussions.

Federal

• **118th Congress Organizes, Health Policy Implications**

During late January and early February, the U.S. House of Representatives was occupied with getting organized for the 118th Congress, after its historically chaotic start. This includes formally naming chairs and ranking minority members to committees and filling out their membership rosters. Likewise, the U.S. Senate took some time to organize, with Senate Republicans only finalizing their committee rosters in the first week of February.

- The House committee of jurisdiction for the Medicaid program and other public health programs is the Committee on Energy and Commerce, chaired by Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.) with Rep. Frank Pallone (D-N.J.) as the ranking member. The Subcommittee on Health will be led by Rep. Brett Guthrie (R-Ky.) with Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-Calif.) as the top Democrat. In the health space, Chair McMorris Rodgers has indicated she plans to conduct oversight into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic and the federal government response. She also plans to focus on the fentanyl crisis, including reauthorizing the bipartisan 2018 SUPPORT Act, which aimed to address the opioid crisis. Notably missing from her stated agenda are calls to "repeal and replace" the Affordable Care Act, though many of the more conservative members of her caucus have expressed ambitious plans to cut the federal budget,

which would, if they were to be implemented, almost certainly require significant changes to federal health care programs, including Medicaid and Medicare.

- In the Senate, the Committee on Finance has jurisdiction over the Medicaid and Medicare programs. Finance will be chaired again by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) with committee Republicans led by Sen. Mike Crapo (R-Idaho). Sen. Ben Cardin (D-Md.) has been chosen to chair the Health Care Subcommittee with Sen. Steve Daines (R-Mont.) as the ranking Republican. Sens. Wyden and Crapo have indicated that they intend to continue bipartisan work in the behavioral health space. The Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) has jurisdiction over many public health programs, including those administered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The HELP Committee will be chaired by Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) with Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.). Sen. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) will be the chair of the Primary Health Retirement Security Subcommittee and Sen. Roger Marshall (R-Kan.) will be the ranking member. Sens. Cassidy and Marshall are both physicians. The HELP Committee will take the lead on reauthorizing the SUPPORT Act (the 2018 opioid bill) and the Pandemic and All Hazards Preparedness Act.
- **Debt Limit and Entitlement Reform**

On January 19, the U.S. Treasury announced that it had reached the statutory debt limit and would have to begin to use “extraordinary measures” to meet its obligations. They estimate that the limit of these measures will be reached sometime in June. Congressional Republicans have called for the Administration to negotiate unspecified spending cuts in exchange for a vote to raise the debt ceiling. While the White House has instead called for a clean debt ceiling vote and negotiations over future spending. Unlike Medicare and Social Security, Medicaid has not been front and center in the ongoing back and forth. However, Medicaid is always at risk in these wide-ranging debates about federal budgets, debt, and deficits. We will continue to monitor and report on any emerging threats to the stability of the Medicaid program in these ongoing discussions. Bipartisan work on the health care workforce also seems possible.
- **Biden Administration**

On January 26, CMS approved a Medicaid section 1115 demonstration for the state of California to provide Medicaid services to inmates in state prisons and county jails during the ninety days before their release back into their communities. CMS also announced that they would be releasing guidance for other states to follow to implement similar waivers.
- On January 30, the White House announced that the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) and national emergency would both end on May 11, 2023. The announcement was made in a Statement of Administrative Policy in response to a House Republican bill which would end the PHE immediately. While the omnibus package enacted at the end of last year addressed the end of continuous enrollment and enhanced FMAP, as well as laying out requirements for the “unwinding” process, a host of other flexibilities and waivers linked to the end of the PHE will end when it concludes.
- On February 13, at the National Association of Counties (NACo) legislative conference, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra encouraged county officials to work with their state officials to seek creative Medicaid waivers to address social risk factors.
- Also at the NACo Legislative Conference, CCH CEO Israel Rocha, made a presentation on the Change Institute and how CCH is addressing social risk factors.