



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

ISRAEL ROCHA, JR.
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 31, 2022

Employee Recognition

Donnica Austin-Cathey has joined Cook County Health as the Chief Hospital Executive for John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital. Ms. Austin-Cathey has more than 25 years of experience in executive health care leadership, operations and service line management, as well as corporate compliance, strategy development and patient experience. She comes to CCH after serving as President of Holy Cross Hospital and Vice President of Operations, Acute Care Hospitals at Sinai Chicago.

Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck, Chief Operating Officer, Cook County Department of Public Health, is being awarded the 2023 University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Public Service Award! The award recognizes Dr. Hasbrouck's inspiring dedication to serving the public and his embodiment of the UCLA mission of public service. An award ceremony will be held on May 13.

Dr. Ashlea Winfield, Assistant Program Director, CCH Simulation Center and Emergency Medicine Physician, has been selected as a recipient of the prestigious National Minority Quality Forum (NMQF) 40 Under 40 Leaders in Minority Health award! The award program celebrates the next generation of thought leaders focused on reducing health disparities.

Hanna Paradise, Child Life Specialist, Stroger Hospital, was awarded the One-Person Program Conference Scholarship from the Association of Child Life Professionals! Ms. Paradise was selected among many outstanding applicants to attend the ACLP conference where she will learn about the latest updates in the profession, hear from experts in multiple domains, and strengthen professional ties.

Congratulations to this month's Commitment to Excellence Award winners!

- **Dewayne Mack**, Supply Clerk, Materials Management
- **Sooby Joseph** and **Janet Weis**, Physical Therapists
- **Diane Creal**, Director of Complex Care Coordination, ACHN
- **Maribel Tejada**, Operating Room Technician, Stroger Hospital

Activities and Announcements

- On March 15, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle joined CCH CEO Israel Rocha in hosting a "State of Cook County Health" community townhall to discuss CCH's three-year strategic plan with our community partners. Nearly 150 partners RSVP'd. A recording of the townhall can be found on [Cook County's You Tube page](#).
- In celebration of Women's History Month, CEO Rocha and Shannon Andrews, Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer, joined several CCH providers to discuss the legacy of women's contributions to the health system and important health issues for women. The recording of the March 22 event can be found on the CCH Facebook page.

Presentations of Note

On Friday, March 24, CEO Rocha was a keynote panelist at the Council of Deans (COD) and the Council of Teaching Hospitals and Health Systems (COH) Spring Meeting. Mr. Rocha presented during a plenary session with several other leaders of academic health systems and medical schools about building a sustainable future for academic medicine.

Legislative Update

State

- The House and Senate are working towards their May 19 adjournment date. Before adjourning for a two week “spring break” the legislature is working to meet deadlines to pass bills out of the originating chamber; the House’s deadline was last Friday, March 24 and the Senate’s deadline is March 31.
- 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.

Status: SB1670 passed out of the Senate Executive Committee unanimously and with no registered opposition. We are working with stakeholders to address some concerns that have been raised and expect to file an amendment.

- [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.

Status: The Governor’s proposed FY2024 budget includes \$3M in the Illinois Department of Public Health’s budget to fund the Equity and Representation in Health Care Act. We are working with the Illinois Primary Health Care Association to keep the \$3M in the budget that is drafted and passed by the Illinois General Assembly.

- [SB122/HB1570](#) – Expansion of the state Medicaid program that would provide Medicaid-like coverage to low-income adults 19-41 years of age, regardless of immigration status.

Status: Healthy Illinois and their partners continue to advocate for this historic expansion that would make Illinois the first state in the nation to make Medicaid available for all low-income residents of the state.

- The Pritzker Administration launched the [“Ready to Renew” campaign](#) to educate and prepare Medicaid recipients, providers, and other stakeholders for the resumption of Medicaid redeterminations (renewals) that will start following the end of the federal Public Health Emergency. Toolkits with messaging, flyers, and other resources are available for download from the HFS website, and CCH and CountyCare will have branded materials available later this month.

The most important action for current Medicaid enrollees to take right now is to ensure that their address and contact information are current – updates can be submitted [online](#) or by calling 1-877-805-5312 and selecting Option 8.

- Earlier this month, Governor Pritzker signed [SB208](#), which passed during the January 2023 lame duck legislative session. PA 102-1143 requires nearly all employers in Illinois to offer at least 40 hours of paid leave annually to employees, to be used for sick time for themselves or a family member, vacation, or childcare. The change takes effect January 1, 2024.

- A new [behavioral health workforce education center](#) launched this month, which will be housed at Southern Illinois University's School of Medicine, in partnership with the University of Illinois Chicago Jane Addams College of Social Work, the Illinois Board of Higher Education, and the Illinois Department of Human Services. The Center will combat shortages in the behavioral health workforce by addressing barriers to recruitment and training, collecting data on behavioral health needs, increasing workforce diversity, and expanding capacity of existing providers. CCH/CCDPH met with UIC to discuss opportunities for partnership and alignment.

Federal

- **FY 2024 Budget Process, Debt Limit and Entitlement Reform**

On March 9, President Joseph R. Biden released his proposed budget for FY 2024, which lays out his tax, spending, and policy priorities for the federal government. The budget release also formally starts the annual budget and appropriations process on Capitol Hill. As expected, congressional Republican leaders were quick to dismiss the proposals, and with a divided Congress, few, if any, are likely to be enacted.

Neither the House nor the Senate seem likely to go to the trouble of writing and passing a budget resolution of their own. In fact, talks between Senate Appropriations Chair Patty Murray (D-WA) and Ranking Republican Susan Collins (R-ME) and their House Counterparts, Chair Kay Granger (R-TX) and Rosa DeLauro (D-CT), have begun to hash out the top-line defense and domestic discretionary amounts, so that the real work of allocating funding to each agency and line item can begin.

Below are some of the FY2024 President's Budget proposals for priority programs for CCH and other items of potential interest. In the coming months we will work with the County's delegation and partners to promote and advance these priorities.

- Ryan White HIV/AIDS Programs and Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative, \$2.7 billion, \$125 million over current year.
- Community Mental Health Services Block Grant, \$1.7 billion, \$645 million over current year.
- Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Block Grant, \$2.7 billion, \$700 million over current year.
- Public Health Infrastructure, \$600 million, \$250 million over current year.

- **Debt Limit and Threats to Medicaid**

While this has been the pattern for the past several cycles, the threat of a default on the national debt looms over the budget and appropriations process. The U.S. Treasury has announced that it has begun using "extraordinary measures" to cover payments on the debt and that their capacity to do so will run out some time this summer. Republicans have demanded deep spending cuts in exchange for voting to increase the debt ceiling, while President Biden and the Democrats are insisting on a clean debt limit increase. This adds a layer of uncertainty to the already fraught process.

It is worth noting that it is clear throughout the budget documents and in public statements from members of the Administration, that the President views health care as a right, not a privilege. He has also publicly committed not only to protecting Medicare, but also Medicaid, and aims to expand coverage and access. This is particularly important in what could be a high-stakes negotiation over the debt ceiling where cuts to Medicaid could be on the table.

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 March 24, CCH's Fresh Truck partnership with GCFD resulted in 441 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 45,516 households, representing 150,394 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.

- April 4 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546
- April 6 – **Austin Health Center** – 4800 W Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60651
- April 11 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** - 1645 Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411
- April 18 – **Robbins Health Center** - 13450 S. Kedzie Avenue, Robbins, IL 60472
- April 20 – **Englewood Health Center** - 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621

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 2023 Second Quarter topic presentations include the CountyCare's Redetermination initiatives and CCH's MAT/Opioid programs. In addition, the meeting provides updates on Cook County Health and Community Outreach. Each clinic also does an update on its operations at the meeting.

Upcoming CAC meeting dates, including the 2023 schedule:

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

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

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

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

Event Participation in March and April:

Outreach staff participated or will participate in the following events to promote both Cook County Health and CountyCare to attendees.

- 1) March 22, 2023 – Participated in the **Lifeshouse Resource Event** which took place at the Dixmoor Community Center located at 14336 Paulina Street in Dixmoor, 60426.
- 2) March 25, 2023 – Participated in the **M.E.A.N. Girls Empowerment’s Girls Health Matters Summit** event which took place at the Hyde Park Academy High School located at 6220 S Stony Is Avenue in Chicago, 60637.
- 3) March 25, 2023 – Participated in the **Village of Hazel Crest Community Service and Wellness Fair** which took place at the Village of Hazel Crest’s Alsberry Center located at 3601 W. 183rd Street in Hazel Crest, 60429.
- 4) March 26, 2023 – Participated in the **Addus Homecare and Healthy Living with a Vision Panel Discussion** which took place at the Mt Carmel Children of God Baptist Church located at 5141 S Damen Avenue in Chicago, 60609.
- 5) March 27, 2023 – Participated in the **Centro Comunitario Juan Diego’s Curb Side Health Fair** which took place at the center located at 8812 S. Commercial Avenue in Chicago, 60617.
- 6) March 28, 2023 – Participated in the **Advocates for Community Wellness, Inc.’s Colon Cancer Awareness Workshop** which took place at the Woodson Regional Library located at 9525 S Halsted Street in Chicago, 60628.
- 7) March 29, 2023 – Participated in the **Edmund Burke Elementary School’s Report Card Pickup** which took place at the school 5356 S. King Drive in Chicago, 60615.
- 8) March 30, 2023 – Participation in the **Markham Community Resource Event** which will take place at the Markham Park District located at 16053 Richmond Avenue in Markham, 60428.
- 9) March 30, 2023 – Participation in the **Office of the Cook County State’s Attorney Community Justice Center’s Senior Resource Fair** which will take place at the Harrison Park District Fieldhouse located at 1824 South Wood Street in Chicago, 60608.
- 10) March 31, 2013 – Participation in the **Chicago Public Schools’ Parent University Day** which will take place at the CPS Throop Center located at 2001 S Throop Street in Chicago, 60608.
- 11) April 1, 2023 – Participation in **Real Men Charities’ 3rd Annual Men’s Health Forum** which will take place at the Quarry Event Center located at 2423 E. 75th Street in Chicago, 60649.
- 12) April 4, 2023 – Participation in the **West Harvey School District 147.5 Parent Conference** which will take place at Tinley Park Convention Center located at 18451 Convention Center Drive in Tinley Park, 60477.
- 13) April 10, 2023 – Participation in the **APC District 504 Resource Fair** which will take place at the Triton College Student Center Cafeteria located at 2000 Fifth Avenue in River Grove, 60171.
- 14) April 11, 2023 – Participation by the HIV Testing Team in the **APC District 504 Resource Fair** which will take place at the Triton College Student Center Cafeteria located at 2000 Fifth Avenue in River Grove, 60171.

- 15) April 12, 2023 – Participation by the Social Workers and Behavioral Health Team in the **Triton College Mental Health and Wellness Resource Fair** which will take place at the Student Center Cafeteria located at 2000 Fifth Avenue in River Grove, 60171.
- 16) April 13, 2023 – Participation in the **Berkeley School District 87 Family Fun Resource Fair** which will take place at the Northlake Middle School located at 202 S Lakewood Avenue in Northlake, 60164.
- 17) April 15, 2023 – Participation in the **Prairie State College’s Veterans Job/Resources Fair 2023** which will take place at the College's Main Building Atrium located at 202 South Halsted Street in Chicago Heights, 60411.
- 18) April 19, 2023 – Participation in the **Berkeley School District 87 Family Fun Resource Fair** which will take place at the MacArthur Middle School located at 1310 North Wolf Road in Berkeley, 60163.
- 19) April 21, 2023 – Virtual participation in the **7th Annual IDCFS Professional Development Day** for its staff.
- 20) April 29, 2023 – Participation in the **Hanover Park Health & Resource Fair** which is hosted by **The Kids at Hope Coalition** and will take place at the Hanover Park Park District Community Center & Park located at 1919 Walnut Avenue in Hanover Park 60133.