

Special Finance Committee Meeting convened 8/23/21 (with two public hearings)

			Representing	
8/23/21	1	Village of River Grove		Written
	2	Reed, Cecilia	Parent of CountyCare member	Written
	3	Grunke, Ken	Pathlights	Written
	4	Kollar, Timothy	Top Box Foods	Written
	5	Brent, Beulah	Sisters Working It Out	Written

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Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Letter of Support for Mass Vaccination Site

The Village of River Grove was so happy and honored to have the Covid mass vaccination site located in our town. Triton College was a perfect location, as it is centrally located between two major highways and has ample parking. People from all over were able to obtain the vaccination. Triton College was convenient and welcoming. We were fortunate enough to have the National Guard help administer the vaccine, which added a sense of security to those receiving the vaccine. River Grove's motto is the Village of Friendly Neighbors...it just seemed to make sense to have the mass vaccination site in our town.

A big thank you to the National Guard, the team at Cook County and Triton College for working together to get this site running in such an efficient manner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "David B. Guerin". The signature is written in a cursive style.

David B. Guerin
President

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to bring to your attention the service that I have been rendered for my son by Ms. Mishell Kerr. Ms Kerr was once my son's County Care Coordinator then he was transferred to another person. I didn't have that person's name or number, however I did have Ms. Kerr's contact information.

I was experiencing some difficulties and I called Ms. Kerr and she informed me that she wasn't his care coordinator any longer but was willing to help as much as possible. Ms. Kerr took the time to listen to my concerns and even escalated it up to upper management to help me get the assistance that I needed. Management seen the opportunity to place my son back with Ms. Kerr and she has been such a wonderful, GOD sent individual.

My son's wheelchair went out of service over the winter due to the snow. When I called Ms. Kerr to inform her of how I was getting my son in and out of the house she took the matter personal and reacted urgently. I have experienced others that did not genuinely care for the consumers, but Ms. Kerr has been there to assist with conference calls and speaking with whomever necessary to help my son and me. Her compassion and professionalism is beyond measures.

I am truly blessed to have her as a coordinator. CountyCare have really employed a Gem of an employee. Often people will disregard those people with disabilities and just move forward with their employment. Ms Kerr has called just to let me know where things are in the process and whom she's reaching out to for further assistance. Also, she will call just to check-up on myself and son. Again, I wish I could have multiple Ms. Kerr's for everything as it pertain to my son's well-being. I even spoke to his primary physician about the service that Ms. Kerr rendered to myself and son and she stated that it is a wonderful thing to have someone to REALLY care for the consumer.

Again, I want to say a million THANK YOU MS.KERR from the bottom of my heart. Continue to be a blessing of assistance and information to those of us that are in need of service. If my son and me could send you roses we would.

May God continue to bless you and keep you.

Sincerely yours,

Ms. Cecilia Reed

[REDACTED]

Pathlights, is a 45-year-old Community Based Organization serving older adults, adults with disabilities and their families, in 22 communities in the Southwest suburbs of Cook County.

We are proud to continue partnering with Cook County Health on the CountyCare Long-Term Services and Supports (LTSS) Program since the initial stages of the Statewide Medicaid expansion initiative. Our mutual goal is to help members improve their well-being, avoid readmissions, and return to/or remain living in the community residence of their choice. This strong valued partnership ensures that all members have access to both medical and community benefits and services. This collaborate approach is critical to maintaining quality of life and allow members to live in the community with independence and dignity. Thanks to this program and Cook County Health we can achieve positive outcomes for our clients.

In addition, Pathlights recognizes that the coronavirus pandemic has placed extraordinary demands on leaders, we are thankful for the Cook County Department of Public Health leadership and their response plan to this crisis.

We have partnered with CCDPH throughout this crisis hosting vaccination clinics for the most vulnerable residents, scheduling homebound vaccine appointments, coordinating mobile vaccination units, and providing extensive CCDPH COVID awareness outreach and education materials. Under the guidance of CCDPH, Pathlights, and other Community Based Organizations have been able to increase vaccine accessibility for all suburban Cook County residents. Most recently their partnership with Kaizen Health, to provide transportation, has been instrumental in accommodating residents that without it cannot get to an appointment.

The weekly meetings with CCDPH and CBO's have been invaluable to support a countywide coordinated approach, allowing us to collectively reach every community. These meetings provide us with resources, supports and information as we navigate through this every changing situation. CCDPH can be applauded for their work on including all groups and sub-groups within the community, making sure everyone that wants a vaccine can get one. No one has been left behind.

Lastly, we are incredibly thankful for the volunteer leadership that Alice Collins of Cook County Health has brought to the entire Pathlights community. Strong vision and strategic direction are necessary to navigate the ever-evolving healthcare industry and Alice has brought incredible insight and value to these core areas of our mission.

We look forward to the future and support the Cook County Health Fiscal Year 2022, working tirelessly to serve the most vulnerable communities.

Ken Grunke
Representing Pathlights

August 20, 2021



Board of Directors
Cook County Health
1950 W. Polk
Chicago, Illinois 60612

Re: Fiscal Year 2022 Cook County Health Budget

Dear Cook County Health Board of Directors:

I am writing to highlight the innovation that exists within the Cook County Health (CCH) system.

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated food insecurity for children and families in under-resourced communities throughout Cook County. In an effort to help solve this problem, CCH has joined forces with Top Box Foods, a nonprofit organization that creates access to healthy foods in under-resourced and underserved communities. CCH and Top Box Foods came together to develop an innovative pilot program designed to improve the nutrition and physical activity of youth and their families through increased access to healthy, affordable food. *The Chicago Youth Text2BHealthy Project*, will serve the families of 35 Cook County Health pediatric patients of color who are overweight and experiencing food insecurity. Top Box Foods will deliver weekly grocery boxes of fresh fruits and vegetables, proteins, and whole grains for a 6-month period, providing nutritious dinners for each patient and their family for 5 days per week.

To nudge participants toward long-term healthy behaviors, a Top Box Foods nutritionist will facilitate weekly dietary educational sessions as well as a text message initiative that will communicate nutrition information, culturally appropriate recipes and cooking lessons, and physical activity challenges that will be tracked by a Fitbit, provided for each participant. BMI Z scores, validated food questionnaires, and a physical activity questionnaire will also be used to measure outcomes.

The program is supported by a \$125,000 award from The Cigna Foundation as a part of Cigna's Healthier Kids For Our Future initiative, which supports community programs addressing 3 of the United Nations Sustainable Development goals: No Poverty, Zero Hunger, and Good Health and Well-Being.

As one of the largest public health and hospital systems in the United States, I commend CCH for its collaborative work. We at Top Box Foods look forward to this partnership and believe that the demonstration of improved outcomes in eating practices and exercises will enable us to scale this program to other areas, and ultimately create a healthier and more vibrant Cook County resident.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Timothy Kollar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Timothy" and last name "Kollar" clearly distinguishable.

Timothy Kollar
Executive Director

August 19, 2021

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Board of Directors
Cook County Health
1950 W. Polk
Chicago, IL 60612

RE: Fiscal Year 2022 Cook County Health Budget

Dear Cook County Health Board of Directors,

I am Beulah Brent, the Chief Executive Officer of Sisters Working It Out (SWIO) and a former Manager in the department of Radiology/Mammography at John H. Stroger Hospital. My work at Stroger Hospital and at other healthcare organizations helped to fuel my passion for breast cancer and community health awareness. These lived experiences strongly influenced my decision to take on the important work of CEO at SWIO to help African American women experiencing breast cancer to improve their survival rates.

Throughout its 19-year history, SWIO has worked tirelessly to address the many barriers contributing to high breast cancer mortality rates for African American women, such as lack of health information, mistrust of providers and health systems, and limited access to primary care and breast cancer screening through services like mammograms and clinical breast exams. Across the United States survival rates for early-stage breast cancer are close to 100%. Yet, African American Women in Chicago are 40% more likely to die from this disease.

Part of the mission of Sisters Working It Out is accomplished through providing programs to educate and empower women of color as well as connect them to quality preventive health services. With Provident Hospital's long-standing history on the South Side of Chicago, SWIO refers African American women living in the area for breast cancer screening and mammograms. We are grateful to Cook County Health for the addition of the modern Mammography studios that were added a few years ago at Provident Hospital and help women who visit there to feel more at ease. I am also happy with the addition of ambulance runs and the re-establishment of ICU services at Provident. These services, in conjunction expansion of ophthalmology, hemodialysis and surgical services with the great primary care provided at the Sengstacke Health Center within the hospital, help people better their health in a holistic way. I know firsthand that the staff in the department of Radiology/Mammography at Provident Hospital make a difference every day in the lives of their patients.

Finally, the past year during this Covid-19 pandemic has been a chaotic one. Sisters Working it Out is also proud to have joined forces with Cook County Health and the Cook County Department of Public Health to raise awareness about Covid-19 vaccination and prevention through education and programming. We have hosted many events in the Southland and shared resources with partners. Kudos to CCH and CCDPH on their vaccination programming.

Overall, Sisters Working it Out is supportive of Cook County Health's budget. Growing programs that benefit those who need help presents the great work being done in the healthcare arena.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Beulah Brent". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

Beulah Brent

Chief Executive Officer

Sisters Working It Out (SWIO)