

Testimony received 9/25/20 regarding budget - sent to Directors for their information:

John Kaderbek – Member, Teamsters Local 743 (Re: budget)

Binita Shah – Employee, Provident Hospital (Re: budget)

Sean Estelle – Member, UFCW Local 881 (Re: budget)

Will Harris – Graduate Student, University of Chicago (Re: budget)

Dan Cutter – Member of Cook County College Teachers Union Local 1600

Cristina Groeger – Asst. Professor, Department of History, Lake Forest College

Camelia Patron – Concerned Citizen

Sofia Noonan – Student, University of Illinois at Chicago

My name is John Kaderbek and I'm a proud member of Teamsters Local 743. I work and live on the South Side of Chicago and I'm writing to submit testimony for the September 25th Meeting of CCHHS Board of Directors.

I want to express how disappointed and frustrated I am that the Board is voting to cut health services to Chicago's South Side community in the middle of a pandemic. I'm writing in support of my union sisters and brothers working at hospitals throughout Cook County that are now being threatened with cuts. The South Side of Chicago needs more access to health care, not less. My union siblings have gone above and beyond to provide quality health care despite underfunding and budget cuts for years. It's time to stop making the working class pay the penalty any time things get tough. The working class people who live and work in Cook County are the essential workers who have gotten us through this pandemic, without our hard and dangerous work nothing would run. We deserve quality health care, we don't deserve to have our hospitals and clinics taken away after all the sacrifices we've made. I urge you to vote against all cuts to our health care system.

Electronic Testimonial Submission

No Reply - Cook County Health <WP-Notifications@cookcountyhealth.org>

Wed 9/23/2020 1:54 PM

To: Santana, Debbie <dsantana@cookcountyhhs.org>

Type of Message

Message

Message

Respected Board Members,

My name is Binita Shah and I have been working at Provident Emergency Department for the past 7.5 years. During my time here at Provident, I have seen numerous resources being taken away from the hospital without any logical explanations. Now, in the middle of a global pandemic, the plan of making Provident ER into " a standby ER" or " urgent care facility" is very upsetting. COVID-19 has 19 disproportionately affected Black Community and now they need us more than ever before. The plan of closing Woodlawn and Near South Health Centers and merging it with patients at John Sengstacke Clinic at Provident Hospital will ONLY bring more patient into Provident ER. Every day we get multiple patients sent down form the clinic to the ER due to either their blood pressure or blood sugar is too high. Those patients need higher lever of care that the clinics can not provide.

Cutting down providers in the ER will only endanger patient lives. Patients would be waiting in the ER much longer to be seen by a provider. With the news of Mercy Hospital closing early next year, Provident ER volume is only going to go up. Recently during my shift, I have seen a DKA patient requiring ICU admission, patient with a large neck mass compressing his airway, COVID positive patient requiring hospitalization and many patients with COPD/asthma flare ups that needed the higher lever of care that the ER was able to provide for them. Where will these patients go??

Please Please reconsider cutting down the ER staff at provident and let us be there for our community. They need us!

Thank you for your time.

Date of Meeting or Public Hearing

09/24/2020

Name

Binita Shah

Address

[REDACTED]

Phone

[REDACTED]

Phone Type

Work

Email

[REDACTED]

My name is Sean Estelle, and I'm a proud member of UFCW Local 881. I am emailing you as a South Side resident to strongly protest against cuts to medical facilities being considered at the 9/25 meeting of the CCHHS Board of Directors. For years, I watched friends have to use every available action at their disposal to get a commitment to a Trauma Center on UChicago's campus due to the lack of adequate medical facilities throughout the rest of the South Side. I find it disturbing that more cuts are being considered during a global pandemic, of all circumstances, when investment in healthcare should be a top priority for every public official. I urge you to vote against all cuts to our health care system.

My name is Will Harris and I'm a graduate student at the University of Chicago. I work and live on the South Side of Chicago and I'm writing to submit testimony for the September 25th Meeting of the CCHHS Board of Directors. I want to express how disappointed and frustrated I am that the Board is voting to cut health services to Chicago's South Side community in the middle of a pandemic. I'm writing in support of my union sisters and brothers working at hospitals throughout Cook County that are now being threatened with cuts. The South Side of Chicago needs more access to health care, not less. Union workers have gone above and beyond to provide quality health care despite underfunding and budget cuts for years. It's time to stop making the working class pay the penalty any time things get tough. The working class people who live and work in Cook County are the essential workers who have gotten us through this pandemic, without our hard and dangerous work nothing would run. We deserve quality health care, we don't deserve to have our hospitals and clinics taken away after all the sacrifices we've made. I urge you to vote against all cuts to our health care system.

My name is Dan Cutter, I'm a proud Cook County College Teachers Union Local 1600 member, resident of the West Side, and a tutor and teacher at Malcolm X College. I'm writing you today to submit testimony for the September 25th meeting of the CCHHS Board of Directors. I'm deeply disappointed that the board is voting to cut health services to hospitals on the South Side of Chicago. Working in an already undervalued and resource-starved community, I know that the issues facing the West Side are very similar on the South Side. In the middle of a pandemic to cut funding from hospitals serving vulnerable communities is unconscionable - these hospitals need more funding, not budget cuts.

My union siblings across Cook County work extremely hard to provide healthcare to their patients. One NNU sister of mine spent over \$1,000 of their own money on PPE purchased from the internet because of their hospitals lack of funding. In one of the richest cities in the richest country in the history of the world that working class nurses have to pay for protection from a deadly global pandemic is disappointing in the nicest possible terms. Now is the time to stand with the Essential Workers who have been key in fighting this pandemic, and fully fund our most important public services. I urge you to vote 'no' on any funding cuts for South Side hospitals tomorrow.

Thank you for your time,

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Dan Cutter

Communication Educator, City Colleges

he/him

My name is Cristina Groeger. I'm a Chicago resident and I'm writing to submit testimony for the September 25th Meeting of the CCHHS Board of Directors. I want to express how disappointed and frustrated I am that the Board is voting to cut health services to Chicago's South Side community in the middle of a pandemic. I'm writing in support of all health care workers working at hospitals throughout Cook County that are now being threatened with cuts. The South Side of Chicago needs more access to health care, not less. Health care workers have gone above and beyond to provide quality health care despite a long history of underfunding and budget cuts for decades. It's time to stop making the working class pay the penalty any time things get tough. The working class people who live and work in Cook County are the essential workers who have gotten us through this pandemic, without our hard and dangerous work nothing would run. They, and we all, deserve quality health care. I urge you to vote against all cuts to our health care system.

Sincerely,

CG

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Cristina Viviana Groeger
Assistant Professor, Department of History
Lake Forest College

To the Members of the Cook County Board,

The closing of yet another ER on the south side is a travesty. However, I am also not surprised.

It seems that Chicago always gives recourses to predominantly white neighborhoods, leaving black and brown neighborhoods behind by closing valuable resources due to budget cuts.

COVID disproportionately impacted the Southeast Side. I could not believe that the Board members would shut down an emergency department with a volume of 30,000 visits per year – far more than many other community hospitals across Illinois.

I urge you to reconsider your plan. Bring in students like myself to the discussion. We can figure out a way to serve the public and find the resources to do it.

Camelia Patron

Dear Board Members:

I am a Junior-year college student in the History Department at University of Illinois at Chicago, currently living on the South Side of Chicago. Closing down services at the historic Provident Hospital is short-sighted and comes at the worst possible time. COVID-19 disproportionately impacted the Southeast Side. If anything we are in need of more services.

But shutting down an emergency department with a volume of 30,000 visits per year is shocking. There is a need. Budgets are not an excuse. I'd rather pay more in taxes than lost an essential part of health access in this community which will increase congestion among the other hospitals remaining.

To even consider cutting healthcare services at CCHHS while Cook County is facing an epidemic of opioid overdoses, suicides, deaths and disability from COVID is unthinkable. This will simply widen the terrible gap in health outcomes between white folks and the BIPOC.

Sofia Noonan