

Cook County Health (CCH)
Internal Audit Charter

April 21, 2023

Mission

Internal Audit is an independent, objective assurance and consulting activity designed to add value and improve an organization's operations. It helps an organization accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes.

Internal Audit will align its activities with the mission and strategy of CCH. Internal Audit will promote good controls and serve as an educational resource to its stakeholders with respect to risk management, control and governance processes. Internal Audit will maintain a collaborative approach to its work practices and will ensure its work product provides value added outputs for its stakeholders.

Role

- Internal Audit's role is determined by the CCH Board of Directors through its Audit and Compliance Committee.
- Internal Audit's responsibilities are defined by the CCH Board of Directors through its Audit and Compliance Committee.

Professional Standards

- Internal Audit will govern themselves by adherence to the Institute of Internal Auditor's "Code of Ethics". <http://www.theiia.org/guidance/standards-and-guidance/ippf/code-of-ethics/english/>
- The Institute's "International Professional Practice Framework" shall constitute the operating procedures for the department. These documents are considered an addendum to this Charter. <http://www.theiia.org/guidance/standards-and-guidance/ippf/standards/>
- Internal Audit will adhere to all CCH policies and procedures and all Internal Audit procedure manuals.

Authority

Internal Audit is authorized to:

- Have unrestricted access to all functions, records, property and personnel.
- Have free, open, and timely access to the Chief Executive Officer and the CCH Board of Directors through its Audit and Compliance Committee.
- Allocate department resources, set frequencies, select subjects, determine scope of work and apply the techniques required to achieve audit objectives.
- Obtain the necessary assistance of personnel in the organization when performing audits, as well as other specialized services from within or outside the organization.

Independence

- All audit activities shall remain free of influence by any element in the organization, including matters of audit scope, procedures, frequency, timing, or report content, required to permit the independence required to render objective reports.
- Internal auditors shall have no operational responsibility or authority over any activities they review.
- Internal auditors shall not develop or install systems or procedures, prepare records or engage in any other activity that they would normally audit.

- Internal Audit reports functionally to the CCH Board of Directors through its Audit and Compliance Committee and administratively to the Chief Executive Officer.
- Internal Audit periodically reports to the CCH Board of Directors through its Audit and Compliance Committee and to CCH Senior Leadership as outlined in the section on Accountability.

Accountability

Internal Audit is accountable to the CCH Board of Directors through its Audit and Compliance Committee and to CCH Senior Leadership to:

- Report significant issues related to the process for controlling the activities of the organization, including potential improvements to those processes, and provide information concerning such issues through resolution.
- Provide information periodically on the status and results of the annual audit plan and the sufficiency of internal audit resources.
- Coordinate with and provide oversight of other control and monitoring functions.

Audit Scope

The scope of the work of Internal Audit is to determine whether the network of risk management, control and governance processes, as designed and represented by management, is adequate and functioning in a manner to ensure:

- Risks are identified and managed.
- Interaction with various governance groups occurs as needed.
- Significant financial, managerial and operating information is accurate, reliable and timely.
- Employee's actions are in compliance with policies, standards, procedures and applicable laws and regulations.
- Resources are acquired economically, used efficiently, and adequately protected.
- Programs, plans and objectives are achieved.
- Quality and continuous improvement are fostered in control processes.
- Significant legislative or regulatory issues impacting the organization are recognized and addressed properly.

Responsibility

- Develop an annual audit plan using risk-based methodology, including any risk or control concerns expressed by management, and submit the plan to the CCH Board of Directors through its Audit and Compliance Committee and to CCH Senior Leadership for approval.
- Implement the audit plan and any special requests by the CCH Board of Directors, its Audit and Compliance Committee, and CCH Senior Leadership and management.
- Maintain a professional audit staff capable of meeting the requirements of this Charter.
- Establish a quality assurance program whereby the director of internal audit assures the operations of internal audit.
- Perform consulting services in addition to assurance services. Consulting services are defined as "advisory and related client services activities, the nature and scope of which are agreed with the client and which are intended to add value and improve the organization's governance, risk management and control processes without the internal auditor assuming management responsibility." Examples include counsel, advice, facilitation, and training.
- Evaluate and assess significant merging/consolidating functions and new or changing services, processes, operations and control processes, coincident with their development, implementation and/or expansion.

- Issue periodic reports to the CCH Board of Directors through its Audit and Compliance Committee and to CCH Senior Leadership summarizing results of internal audit activities.
- Inform the CCH Board of Directors through its Audit and Compliance Committee, and CCH Senior Leadership of emerging trends and successful practices in internal auditing.
- Provide the CCH Board of Directors through its Audit and Compliance Committee, and CCH Senior Leadership a list of internal audit measurement goals and results.
- Assist in the investigation of significant suspected fraudulent activities.
- Consider the scope of work of the external auditors and regulators for the purpose of providing optimal audit coverage at a reasonable cost.

Joseph M. Harrington
Audit and Compliance Committee Chair

Israel Rocha Jr.
Chief Executive Officer

Tom Schroeder
Director of Internal Audit