



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

ISRAEL ROCHA, JR.
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 29, 2022

Employee Recognition

Dr. Elizabeth Marcus, Chair of Breast Oncology for Cook County Health, was named to Chicago Magazine's *Top Doctors* list for 2022. Dr. Marcus is an expert in oncology who specializes in the treatment and prevention of breast cancer. She has expertise in treating locally advanced breast cancer and conducting research to improve multidisciplinary treatment. Dr. Marcus is particularly focused on caring for underserved populations and serves as a subject matter expert on improving care delivery to minority communities as a member of the National Cancer Institute Breast Cancer Steering Committee.

Dr. Mike Alebich, Co-Director of Medical Student Programs and Attending Physician in the Division of Hospital Medicine, has been named an "Emerging Leader" by the Health & Medicine Policy Research Group (HMPRG). In his nomination, Dr. Alebich was recognized as "a dedicated problem solver. He takes on whatever obstacle may interfere with patients getting what they need and works for solutions with an eye towards access and equity. He is about making things better for everyone...Despite being early in his career, Dr. Alebich's leadership has already made a tremendous impact at Cook County Health." The award will be given at HMPRG's gala on September 29, 2022.

Becker's Healthcare recently recognized two Cook County Health leaders. Cook County Health **Chief Strategy Officer Andrea Gibson** was named one of the great chief strategy officers for health systems in the country. Becker's notes that the recognized chief strategies officers "drive forward key deals and initiatives aligned with the health system's core mission and growth... [They] are champions of digital transformation and cultural shifts to for the organization to deliver better, more effective patient care." **Linh Dang, Chief Experience Officer**, was named an outstanding chief experience officer. "The best CXOs are obsessed with delivering truly patient-centered care and focused on breaking down organizational barriers to a seamless, stress-free patient and caregiver experience," wrote Becker's.

The Cook County **Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (JTDC)** was granted full re-accreditation status of its health care program by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). The two-day survey reviewed NCCHC standards of compliance over the last three years. Cook County Health's Cermak Health Services provides care for patients at the JTDC.

Stroger Hospital was recently **recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a high-performing organization** for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and pneumonia, as well as heart attack and heart failure care. U.S. News & World Report annually rates hospitals for their performance in treating more commonly occurring conditions and medical procedures. Among the criteria looked at are patient outcomes and volumes of a procedure done. High-performing organizations rate significantly better than the national average.

Activities and Announcements

Monkeypox

The World Health Organization has declared monkeypox a global public health emergency on July 25, 2022. The CDC [reports](#) that there are currently 3,847 monkeypox cases in the U.S. As of July 25, Illinois reported a total of 344 cases with 202 of those cases in Chicago. CCH is monitoring the situation very closely and developing a robust response plan. Currently, the CORE Center is providing testing, treatment and vaccinations in partnership with CDPH. We look forward to expanding to suburban ACHN in the near future with our partners at CCDPH. Cermak continues to work closely with CDPH, IDPH and the CDC to mitigate the risk of monkeypox at the jail following the confirmation of a positive case at Cook County Jail. See CEO report for additional Monkeypox information.

COVID-19 Update

Chicago and Cook County are in high transmission with the BA5 variant dominating. Hospitalizations have increased.

CCH continues to administer COVID vaccines to CCH employees, patients and the larger community. We began providing vaccine to children under 5 earlier this month. As of, July 26, 2022, CCH has administered 1,015,451 doses of COVID vaccine. CCH has also launched a Test-to-Treat program via telehealth for patients and the community. Individuals testing positive can call 833-308-1988 to be connected to a provider who can prescribe the antiviral paxlovid or monoclonal antibodies.

Mid-Year Budget Review

On July 19th, CCH presented its mid-year budget report to the Cook County Board of Directors. The report is attached.

Bud Billiken Parade

The annual Bud Billiken Day parade will be held on Saturday, August 13th. Cook County Health will continue its tradition of having a large presence with our Provident team managing the health stations along the parade route and marching in the parade. Additionally, this year, CountyCare will also participate in the parade with a float and school-related giveaways in the spirit of back-to-school. Board members are welcome to join us. Reach out to [Caryn Stancik](#) if you are interested in participating.

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. The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic required CCH and GCFD to develop and implement revised protocols for the Fresh Truck distributions that allow for appropriate screenings and social distancing to protect patients, as well as CCH and GCFD staff and volunteers. These revised protocols are in place until further notice.

Through July 21, 2022, CCH's Fresh Truck partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) resulted in 400 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 an estimated 43,062 households, representing 142,192 individuals. Most of the individuals benefiting from the Fresh Truck screened positive for food insecurity at a CCH health center visit.

GCFD Fresh Truck Distributions

The Greater Chicago Food Depository's Fresh Food Truck visits for the month of August include the following ACHN Health Centers.

- August 2 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546
- August 4 – **Austin Health Center** - 4800 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60651
- August 9 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** - 1645 Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411
- August 16 – **Englewood Health Center** - 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- August 21 – **Robbins Health Center** - 13450 S. Kedzie Avenue, Robbins, IL 60472

CCH Community Advisory Councils

The 2022 Third Quarter topic presentations include the Strategic Plan, Chicago-Cook Workforce Partnership and the CountyCare Equity Initiatives. In addition, updates on Cook County Health, Covid-19 Vaccination and Community Outreach are provided. Each clinic also does an update on its operations at the meeting.

Upcoming CAC meeting dates, including the 2022 schedule:

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

Arlington Heights: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: August 23, November 29
3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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

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

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

Provident Hospital/Sengstacke Health Center: Wednesday at 9:00 AM: October 12
500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609

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

Community Outreach

As in person event participation resumes, Cook County Health and CountyCare will be present at events to promote the health system and the Medicaid program. Events in the month of August include the following:

- August 2 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **National Night Out** which is sponsored by the **Maywood Police** which will take at Veteran's Memorial Park located at Oat Street and 4th Avenue in Maywood.
- August 2 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **National Night Out** which is sponsored by the **Chicago Police Department 22nd District** which will take at Ridge Park located at 9625 S. Longwood Drive in Chicago.
- August 5 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **7th Annual Englewood Community Health Fair - Healthier You, Healthier Us Health Fair 2022** which is sponsored by Rush Hospital and which will take at the West Englewood Library located at 1725 W 63rd Street in Chicago. At this event, we will do special promotion of the Englewood Health Center.
- August 6 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Divine Holiness Church Health Fair** which will take at the church located at 15306 Wood Street in Harvey.
- August 6 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Senator Mattie Hunter's 3rd District Health Fair** which will take place at the IIT Campus located at 33rd Street and State in Chicago.
- August 6 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **West40 BackPack GiveBack Resource Fair** which will take place at Morton College located at 3801 S. Central in Cicero.
- August 6 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Alderman Ariel E. Reboyras Back to School Bash** which will take place at Chopin Park located at 3420 N. Long Avenue in Chicago.
- August 7 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **13th Annual Uplift Our Future Back to School Event** which is sponsored by the Senator Kimberly A. Lightford and will take place at the Brookfield Zoo located at 8400 W. 31st Street in Brookfield.
- August 10 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Catholic Charities Back to School Drive** which will take place at the Broadway Estates located at 2800 W. Broadway in Blue Island.
- August 10 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Housing Authority of Cook County's Back-to-School Bash** which will take at the Richard Flowers Homes located at 13904 Grace Street in Robbins.
- August 11 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Housing Authority of Cook County's Back-to-School Bash** which will take at the Vera Yates Homes located at 1055 Berkley in Ford Heights.
- August 11 CountyCare is hosting its quarterly **Enrollee Advisory Committee (EAC)** which is going to be done virtually and will take place at 12:00pm. The EAC is a way to bring 15 CountyCare members together to talk about the plan, what works and what needs improvement and to obtain feedback from the members on their care and other issues.

- August 12 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Housing Authority of Cook County's Back-to-School Bash** which will take at the Sunrise Apartments located at 1314 Wentworth Avenue in Chicago Heights.
- August 12 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **2nd Annual Family Health Day** which is sponsored by the Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson and will take place at the Brookfield Zoo located at 8400 W. 31st Street in Brookfield.
- August 12 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Back to School Health Fair** which is sponsored by the **State Senator Celina Villanueva, State Representative Edgar Gonzalez, Jr., State Representative Theresa Mah, and Cook County Commissioner Alma Anaya** which will take at Rauner Family YMCA located at 2700 S. Western in Chicago.
- August 12-14 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at Black Women's Expo which will take at McCormick Place located at 2301 S. King Drive in Chicago.
- August 13 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Bud Billiken Parade**. Provident Hospital staff will manage the health stations along the parade route. In addition, we will have 2 floats in the parade, one for Cook County Health and one for CountyCare.
- August 13 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **33rd Ward Committeewoman, Iris Y. Martinez's Annual Back to School Health and Resource Fair** which will take place at the former DePaul College Prep High School located at 3633 N California Avenue in Chicago. An MA from the Belmont Cragin Health Center will do BP screenings at the event.
- August 13 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Cook County Commissioner Stanley Moore's Back to Scholl 2022 Fair** which will take place at Calumet Memorial Park located at 612 Wentworth Avenue in Calumet City.
- August 20 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **State Representative Lamont Robinson, District 5's Community Appreciation Fair** which will take place at the Insight Hospital Lot located at 2525 S. Michigan Avenue in Chicago.
- August 25 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Cada Paso - Catholic Charities Outreach Program** which is sponsored by the Catholic Charities and Loyola University Chicago Stritch School of Medicine and will take place at the St. Mary of Celle Family Strengthening Center located at 1448 Wesley Avenue in Berwyn. North Riverside's Psychiatric Social worker Matilde Torres will provide a lecture to participants on Dietary and Healthy Eating habits.
- August 27 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **16th Annual Vive tu Vida! Get Up! Get Moving! Chicago Family Health and Wellness Fair** which will take place at the McKinley Park Fieldhouse located at 2210 W. Pershing Road in Chicago. CCH's new mobile vaccination team will provide Covid-19 vaccinations at the event.

Legislative Update

Local

- On July 27 CCH appeared before the Cook County Health & Hospitals Committee. CCH CEO Israel Rocha and CCDPH COO Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck presented the Monthly COVID-19 Vaccination Program and Contact Tracing Update. An overview of the system's response to Monkeypox virus was also included. Additional agenda items included CCDPH's Second Quarterly Report on the Contact Tracing Initiative Evaluation which was presented by Dr. Rachel Rubin and the first Semi-Annual Report on Health Outcomes Disparities presented by Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck.
- On July 28 President Preckwinkle introduced the appointments of Dr. Jay Bhatt and Sam Robinson to the Cook County Health Board of Directors. The appointments were referred to the Cook County Board's Legislation and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee for consideration. A hearing on the appointments is expected to occur prior to the September Cook County Board meeting.
- Four (4) CCH Board Director terms are scheduled to expire in late fall 2022/early winter 2023 (Gugenheim, Munar, Prendergast, Koetting). Pursuant to County Ordinance, the Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System (NomCom) is required to submit three (3) candidates for each vacancy to the County Board President for consideration. On May 23 the NomCom submitted ten (10) candidates to President Preckwinkle for consideration. On June 15 the NomCom met and voted to send to the County Board President one (1) additional candidate.

State

- The 2022 Fall Session is scheduled for November 15-17 and November 29-December 1. While these days are often referred to as "Veto Session", the Governor did not veto any legislation from the Spring 2022 session. The Fall Session will follow the statewide general election on November 8.

Depending on the outcome of the statewide election, "lame duck" session days may also be scheduled for early 2023, prior to the inauguration of the 103rd General Assembly.

- Legislators have expressed interest in returning to Springfield for a special session to address reproductive health and gun safety legislation. No dates have been announced yet.

Legislation approved after May 31 requires a supermajority (71 in the House, 36 in the Senate) for an immediate effective date; legislation passed with a simple majority (60 in the House, 30 in the Senate) would have an effective date of June 1 of the following year.

- Governor Pritzker appointed [Dr. Sameer Vohra](#) to serve as the new Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). Dr. Vohra is a pediatrician and also holds degrees in law and public policy. He is the founding chair of the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine's Department of Population Science and Policy. Dr. Vohra's appointment will take effect August 1, 2022. The position requires confirmation by the Illinois Senate.

Dr. Amaar Tokals who served as Interim Director following the departure of Dr. Ngozi Ezike in March 2022 will stay with IDPH as Assistant Director.

Federal

- **Bipartisan Safer Communities Act (S. 2928)** – The bipartisan package of gun violence prevention and mental health provisions led by Sens. Chris Murphy (D-CT) and John Cornyn (R-TX) were passed as an amendment to underlying legislation pending in the Senate on June 23, by the House on June 24 and signed into law by the President on June 25. Provisions of interest to CCH include:
 - \$750 million fund to support state crisis intervention orders.

- Adds convicted domestic violence abusers in dating relationships to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS).
 - Clarifies definition of “federally licensed firearms dealer” to crack down on criminals who illegally evade licensing requirements.
 - Requires an investigative period to review juvenile and mental health records, including checks with state databases and local law enforcement, for buyers under 21 years of age.
 - Creates federal straw purchasing and trafficking criminal offenses, allowing prosecutors to target dangerous illegal gunrunners.
 - \$250 million fund for community-based violence prevention initiatives.
 - Expands the existing Medicaid Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC) demonstration program to all states to increase access to community based behavioral health services.
 - Helps states to implement, enhance, and expand school-based health programs under Medicaid through updated guidance, technical assistance, and state planning grants.
 - Improves oversight of states’ implementation of Medicaid’s Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit.
 - Requires CMS to provide guidance to states on how they can increase access to behavioral health services through telehealth under Medicaid and CHIP.
 - \$80 million in grants for pediatric primary care providers to rapidly access mental health specialists’ expertise in guiding the treatment of their patients.
 - \$60 million over five years for training in mental health for primary care clinicians who treat children and youth.
 - \$120 million over four years to train community members and first responders on how to appropriately and safely respond to individuals with mental disorders.
 - \$250 million for states, DC, and territories to enhance comprehensive community mental health services.
 - \$240 million over four years for programs that increase awareness of mental health issues among school-aged youth, provide training for school personnel and other adults who interact with school-aged youth, including a set aside of \$28 million for grants to support trauma care in school settings.
 - \$40 million over four years to improve treatment and services for children, adolescents, and families who have experienced traumatic events.
 - \$150 million to support implementation of the 9-8-8 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline that provides 24/7, free and confidential support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress.
- **Health and Mental Health Legislation** – On June 22, the House passed the bipartisan H.R. 7666, the Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act of 2022. Of interest to Cook County Health and to the County, the bill incorporates provisions of H.R. 7233, the KIDS CARES Act, that would ease the Medicaid inmate payment exclusion for eligible juveniles in detention. The provisions would require state Medicaid plans to provide youth in juvenile detention with mental, behavioral, and physical health services before and after their release from custody. Other major provisions of the bill reauthorize expiring Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and Health Services and Resources Administration grants to support state and local mental health, substance use and other health services.
- Other House committees and committees of jurisdiction in the Senate, including the powerful Senate Finance Committee, with jurisdiction over Medicare and Medicaid, continue to work on bipartisan mental health legislation. Earlier ambitions of marking up a comprehensive bipartisan package before the August recess have slipped, though advocates hope that consensus provisions can be passed before the end of the year.
- **FY 2023 Budget and Appropriations** – The House Appropriations Committee has finished marking up the FY 2023 bills despite reaching bipartisan, bicameral agreement on the top line numbers, and the House has passed the first “minibus” comprised of six bills. The Labor-HHS-Education bill has not yet been considered on the House floor. One or more continuing resolutions are likely to be required, absent a significant bipartisan agreement on top-level amounts and controversial riders.

- **Biden Administration** – On July 15, HHS extended the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) for another 90 days, reiterating its commitment to give states sixty days' notice before allowing the PHE, and its associated policy adjustments, including the enhanced FMAP, to end.

On July 20, the Administration announced that it is reorganizing HHS to create an independent division that would lead national pandemic response. The HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) would be an agency equal to other federal organizations such as the FDA. The new division will be responsible for coordinating national response to health emergencies. The transition will be phased in over two years, and it would be run by current ASPR, Dawn O'Connell.

- **Budget Reconciliation Bill (“Build Back Better”)** – Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) have reached a new agreement on a pared down reconciliation package to include provisions to allow CMS to negotiate with the drug companies on prescription drug prices for Medicare. Sen. Manchin has agreed that some of the savings from drug pricing negotiation could be used to extend the enhanced subsidies for low- and moderate-income people to purchase insurance on the ACA marketplaces which were originally passed in ARPA. Leaders are submitting legislative text to the Senate Parliamentarian to see if they comply with the Senate rules that govern the budget reconciliation process which would permit Senate Democrats to pass legislation with all 50 Democrats and the Vice President voting.
- **COVID Supplemental Appropriation** – The \$10 billion COVID response package continues to be stalled in the Senate, though some hope that funding might be included in a repackaged budget reconciliation bill.