Resolution Recognizing CountyCare's 10th Anniversary

WHEREAS, Cook County Health (CCH) has a nearly 200 year history of caring for residents of Cook County, regardless of ability to pay; and

WHEREAS, CCH is a staunch advocate of health equity and is committed to furthering programs and services that ensure health care coverage and access for all; and

WHEREAS, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 allowed for the expansion of Medicaid eligibility to low-income adults, along with several other important health care regulations and policies; and

WHEREAS, on October 26, 2012, the State of Illinois and County of Cook earned a Section 1115 demonstration waiver from the federal government that allowed CCH's Medicaid managed care plan, CountyCare, to begin enrolling and providing health coverage to adults in Cook County newly eligible for Medicaid under the ACA one year in advance of the ACA implementation date; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the collaboration between the federal government, the State and Cook County government, CCH's CountyCare was able to offer essential health coverage to individuals a year earlier than statewide Medicaid expansion; and

WHEREAS, in its first year, CountyCare enrolled 82,000 members across Cook County; and

WHEREAS, CountyCare focused on enrolling vulnerable, uninsured individuals most at risk for falling through the cracks of the regional health care system, including low-income individuals, those who were unhoused, and those detained at the Cook County jail; and

WHEREAS, by the time Medicaid was expanded in Illinois, CountyCare covered nearly half of the total statewide enrollment of newly-eligible adults in Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, today, CountyCare is the largest Medicaid managed care plan in Cook County with more than 420,000 members; and

WHEREAS, CountyCare developed and sustains a robust network of health care providers, including CCH facilities and many health systems across the region, offering members a broad array of locations to seek medical, dental, vision and behavioral health care; and

WHEREAS, CountyCare has received many accolades over the past decade for its operations and member services, including being ranked as the highest managed care plan in the state by the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and accreditation for demonstrating a commitment to quality by the National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA); and

WHEREAS, October 26, 2022, represents the 10th anniversary of CountyCare serving the residents of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, CountyCare has served more than 938,000 members over the past 10 years, facilitating more than 32 million medical claims and 75 million prescriptions. The health plan has also covered 781,000 well child visits and the births of nearly 43,000 babies; and

WHEREAS, CountyCare continues to demonstrate its commitment to the health of its members and communities across Cook County; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Directors of Cook County Health, does hereby gratefully acknowledge the entire CountyCare team for their significant contributions to the health and wellbeing of Cook County residents over the past 10 years.