



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

ISRAEL ROCHA, JR.
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
June 22, 2022

Employee Recognition

Stroger Hospital received national acknowledgement from The American Heart Association, earning the “Get With The Guidelines® - Stroke SILVER PLUS” award for its commitment to ensuring stroke patients receive the most appropriate treatment according to nationally recognized, research-based guidelines. The hospital was also awarded the “Target: Type 2 Diabetes Honor Roll”, which ensures patients with type 2 diabetes receive the most up-to-date, evidence-based care when hospitalized with cardiovascular disease or stroke. Thank you to **Dr. Lakshmi Warrior, Chair of Neurology, Kathryn Dudzik, Stroke Coordinator**, and the entire neurology team for their work in achieving this recognition.

Cook County Health was selected as one of five winners of the Innovation Session at the national Stigma of Addiction Summit. The showcased work, led by **Dr. Juleigh Nowinski Konchak, Sarah Elder, Dr. Jeff Watts, Dr. Keiki Hinami, and Dr. Bill Trick**, is a partnership between the CCH substance use disorder program and the Business Intelligence Unit to utilize patient-reported outcomes to reduce stigma in addiction treatment. Additional co-authors include **Brittany Green**, recovery coach in the SUD program and **Clay Caquelin and Ravi Madaiah** of Business Intelligence.

Activities and Announcements

Cook County Health participated in the **City of Chicago’s full scale disaster drill** on June 1. The drill tested the hospital community’s ability to respond to a surge of patients as the result of altercations and heat during a busy Chicago weekend with large events. Both Stroger and Provident hospitals received ‘patients’ during the drill. The incident command system was activated. Our team responded well and identified areas of opportunity.

On June 3, Senator Richard Durbin joined President Preckwinkle, CEO Rocha and Cook County leaders at a Press Conference to commemorate **Wear Orange Day** and discuss the impact of gun violence and the need for common senses gun safety reforms noting that guns are now the leading cause of death for children surpassing motor vehicle deaths.

On June 8, President Preckwinkle, Cook County Commissioners Stanley Moore, Donna Miller, Alma Anaya and Kevin Morrison joined CEO Rocha and a host of community organizations at a **Stop the Bleed** training, a national program designed to teach bystanders how to stop bleeding and potentially save a life during an emergency.

As of June 17, there were 15 confirmed cases of **Monkeypox** in Illinois and several more under investigation. Cook County Health and the Cook County Department of Public Health are monitoring the situation and preparing to respond. At this time, authorities do not believe monkeypox will spread widely throughout the country. The virus has historically not been fatal in the US. CCH has created a Monkeypox resource page on the intranet for employees.

On June 17th, CEO Rocha was honored to speak at Cook County Commissioner and CCH Board vice chair Dennis Deer’s Juneteenth event, **Closing the Gaps in the Healthcare Delivery System**.

On June 23, CCH Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer, Shannon Andrews, spoke at a Health News Illinois panel on closing the **health equity gap** and CCH’s legacy of caring for all.

Both **My Shot Cook County** and **CountyCare's We've Got You Covered** won Gold awards in the 2022 [Aster Awards](#) Total Advertising Campaign category. The Aster Awards has one of the most inclusive groups and categories in healthcare advertising dedicated to recognizing the most talented healthcare marketing professionals for outstanding excellence in advertising, marketing and communications.

COVID-19 Update

Chicago and Cook County are in medium transmission. Hospitalizations remain relatively low.

CCH will begin providing vaccine to children under 5 next week at all sites. Appointments will be required and can be made by visiting <https://vaccine.cookcountyil.gov>. Both CCH and CCDPH continue to offer vaccines, including booster shots, in the community. A full list of locations, dates and times can be found [here](#). As a result of decreased demand and to allow CCH facilities to resume full patient services, effective July 18, CCH will provide COVID vaccinations for non-CCH patients at the following locations: Arlington Heights, North Riverside, Blue Island, Provident and Stroger.

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 June 14, 2022, CCH's Fresh Truck partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) resulted in 393 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 42,442 households, representing 139,961 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 June include the following ACHN Health Centers.

July 7	Prieto Health Center – 2424 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60623
July 12	Provident Hospital/Sengstacke Health Center – 500 W. 51 st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
July 15	CORE Center – 2020 W. Harrison Street, Chicago, IL 60612
July 21	Arlington Heights – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
July 28	Blue Island Health Center – 12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

CCH Community Advisory Councils

Cook County Health Community Advisory Councils (CAC) include patients, community and religious organizations and serve as an opportunity to promote our services and receive important feedback from various stakeholders. The 2022 second quarter topic presentations include Cardiology, Stroke, Family Planning, and the CountyCare Rewards Program. In addition, updates on Cook County Health, Covid-19 Vaccination and Community Outreach are provided. Each clinic also provides an update on its operations at the meeting.

Upcoming CAC meeting dates:

Provident Hospital/Sengstacke Health Center: Wednesday at 9:00 AM: July 13, October 12
500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609

Cottage Grove: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: July 26, October 25
1645 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411

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

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 June include the following:

- June 25 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **LUCERO Men's Health & Family Resource Fair** which is hosted by Latino Task Force, LUCERO and Chicago Family Health Center and which will take place at the Chicago Family Health Center parking lot located at 9119 S. Exchange Avenue in Chicago.
- June 25 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at **The Rite to Wellness Campaign** which is hosted by The Garfield Park Rite to Wellness Collaborative and which will take place at the Garfield Park Community Plaza & Outdoor Roller Rink located at 4008 W Madison Street in Chicago.
- June 30 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at **Representative Lamont Robinson's Senior Appreciation** which will take place at the Paul G. Stewart Center located at 400 E. 41st Street in Chicago.
- July 15 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Hanover Park Police - COPS Picnic** which is hosted by the Village and the Police Department and will take at the Spring Wood Middle School located at 5540 Arlington Drive E in Hanover Park.
- July 17 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Spirit Redeemed Missionary Baptist Church Resource Event** which will take at the church located at 6615 South Ashland Avenue in Chicago. We will do Englewood Health Center promotion at the event as they are members of our Englewood Advisory Council.
- July 30 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at **Commissioner Debra Sims Back to School Event** which will take at Phalanx Family Services located at 837 W. 119th Street in Chicago.
- July 30 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at **HopeFest 2022** which is hosted by New Life Main Covenant Church and will take place at the New Life Main Campus located at 3400 W. Division Street in Chicago.
- July 30 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Health & Wellness Medical Camp** which is hosted by the Sai Spiritual Community Center (SSCC) organization and will take place at the SSCC building located at 70 Golfview Drive in Northlake.
- July 30 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Aetna Back to School Bash** which is sponsored by the Aetna and will take place at the Moore (Maurice) Park located at 5085 W. Adams in Chicago.

Legislative Update

Local

- On June 14, CCH appeared before the Cook County Health & Hospitals Committee to provide a COVID-19 and Contact Tracing Update. CCH CEO Israel Rocha, CCDPH Co-Leads Dr. Kiran Joshi and Dr. Rachel Rubin presented on behalf of CCH.
- On June 14, the Cook County Legislation and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee met and approved the appointment of Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck to the position of CCDPH Chief Operating Officer. The appointment was ratified by the County Board at the June 16 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. The NomCom is scheduled to meet again on June 24 to vote on one (1) more additional candidate

State

- The Illinois General Assembly posted the Fall 2022 Veto Session calendar, with plans to return to Springfield November 15-17 and November 29-December 1. The statewide election is 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.

- The Governor signed [HB4645](#), a key legislative priority for CCH in the spring 2022 state legislative session. HB4645 creates the Equity and Representation in Health Care Act, which authorizes a new loan repayment and scholarship program to promote greater diversity among health care providers when it comes to race, ethnicity, and other demographics. This Act will also build and strengthen the workforce at community-based provider locations that serve a high-proportion of Medicaid and uninsured patients, specifically at FQHCs, FQHC look-alikes, and provider locations operated by CCH, including Cermak Health Services.

CCH co-led this effort with the Illinois Primary Health Care Association, which represents FQHCs statewide. The legislation takes effect January 1, 2023 with the programs housed at the Illinois Department of Public Health. While funding was not included in the FY2023 budget, CCH and our partners will be working to advocate for appropriations to be included in future budgets.

- Starting July 1, 2022, the Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults program will accept applications from individuals 42 and older, regardless of immigration status. Applicants with income at or below the Medicaid eligibility level (133% FPL) may be eligible for Medicaid-like coverage including physical and behavioral health care, specialty care, prescription drugs, inpatient hospital services, and dental. Long term care and home and community based services are currently excluded for this population. Applicants will also have the opportunity to request up to three months of backdated coverage (dating back to April 2022). Applications can be submitted online at abe.illinois.gov.

Federal

- **Mental Health Included in Gun Violence Legislation** – On June 21 the bipartisan group of senators working on gun violence legislation, led by Sens. Chris Murphy (D-CT) and John Cornyn (R-TX) released their legislation, the *Bipartisan Safer Communities Act*. The Senate voted 64-34 to advance the bill and included 50 Democrats and 14 Republicans. The Senate hopes to pass the bill and send it to the House before the July 4 recess.

Key provisions of the proposed legislation include the following:

- **Investments in Children and Family Mental Health Service** – Supports national expansion of community behavioral health center model; improves access to mental health services for children, youth, and families through the Medicaid program and CHIP; increases access to mental health services for youth and families in crisis via telehealth; and provides major investments at the Department of Health and Human Services to programs that expand provider training in mental health, support suicide prevention, crisis and trauma intervention and recovery
- **Increased Funding for Schools** – Invests in programs to expand mental health and supportive services in schools, including: early identification and intervention programs, school-based mental health and wrap-around services, improvements to school-wide learning conditions, and school safety.
- **Support for State Crisis Intervention Orders** – Creates a new \$750 million funding pot that will be available to states for the creation and administration of laws that help ensure deadly weapons are kept out of the hands of individuals a court has determined to be a significant danger to themselves or others, and other purposes such as mental health courts, drug courts, veterans courts, and extreme risk protection orders that have sufficient due process.
- **Under 21 Enhanced Review Process** – 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.

Additional provisions include:

- protections for victims of domestic violence;
 - clarified definition of “federally licensed firearms dealer”;
 - penalties for “straw purchasing”; and
 - violence interruption funding.
- **Health and Mental Health Legislation** – During the week of June 20, the House will take up a package of the bipartisan mental health legislation, 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, are considering bipartisan mental health legislation, and advocates hope that consensus provisions can be passed this year.

- **FY 2023 Budget and Appropriations** – The House Appropriations Committee has begun marking up the FY 2023 bills despite reaching bipartisan, bicameral agreement on the top line numbers. This mirrors the approach for FY 2022, which resulted in the final full year omnibus appropriation not being completed until halfway through the current fiscal year, after top line numbers were agreed upon. 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 June 3, CMS notified states that they have an additional year – through March 2024 – to use the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to strengthen and expand home and community-based services (HCBS) for Medicaid beneficiaries who need long term services and supports. ARPA offered states a temporary ten percent FMAP increase.

On June 9, the White House announced that, since Congress had not passed a COVID supplemental appropriation, it was shifting existing COVID funds from testing and research toward buying more vaccines and therapeutics. Administration officials warn that absent a new infusion of funds from Congress, there will not be enough to buy updated vaccines for the fall.

With FDA and CDC approval, the Administration allowed administering COVID vaccines to children under five years old on June 21.

- **COVID Supplemental Appropriation** – The \$10 billion COVID response package continues to be stalled in the Senate.
- **Budget Reconciliation Bill (“Build Back Better”)** – Reports continue to circulate on discussions around advancing a smaller Budget Reconciliation package with some elements of the President’s economic agenda (Build Back Better Act). No additional details or timelines have been reported.