



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

DR. ERIK MIKAITIS
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
March 22, 2024

Employee Recognition

Cook County Health's **first robotic-assisted surgery** was performed on Friday, March 1 at Stroger Hospital. Two surgical robots were recently installed at Stroger Hospital to provide patients with access to gold standard surgical services. Congratulations to the multidisciplinary team involved in bringing this multi-year project to fruition.

The **Cook County Cancer Screening Steering Committee** hosted Colon Cancer Screening Events at Provident Hospital and Stroger Hospital. The team educated more than 360 patients and visitors in multiple languages about the importance of colon health and preventive cancer screenings.

Cook County Health's **primary care medical homes** earned Silver Target BP recognition from the American Medical Association and American Heart Association in recognition for their commitment to improving blood pressure control in adult patients.

Brigid Sumo, RN, BSN, earned a DAISY Award. Brigid was nominated for going above and beyond in her care for patients undergoing chemotherapy. She is often praised for having gone the extra mile answering patient and family concerns while coordinating care.

Martia Brown, RN, BSN, who has worked at CCH for over 30 years, earned a DAISY Award! Martia received over 18 nominations from patients, patients' families, and her co-workers that highlighted her mentorship, compassion and caring skills.

Dr. Priscilla Ware, Chair of Correctional Health, **Dr. Umair Jabbar**, Co-Chair of the CCH Readmissions Committee, and **Alexandra Normington**, Interim Chief Communications and Marketing Officer, completed the America's Essential Hospitals fellowship program. The program's goal is to empower participants with the necessary skills to lead strategically and advocate for policies and resources that promote the health of vulnerable patients. The group's capstone project focused on improving care coordination for justice-involved patients.

Angela O'Banion, Chief Information Officer, has been named a recipient of the Dr. Margaret Burroughs Legacy Award for 2024 by the Women's Board of the DuSable Black History Museum and Education Center. The award recognizes leaders who advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion. The award presentation will take place during the DuSable Museum's Women's History Month program on March 23.

Activities and Announcements

On March 6, Cook County Health announced that it will **award \$44 million in grants over a 26-month period as part of its Stronger Together: Building a More Equitable Behavioral Health System in Cook County Initiative**. The grants will fund programs geared towards addressing behavioral health inequities across the region's system of care through increased systems alignment, enhanced system quality, and the expansion of access to early intervention and prevention, treatment, support, recovery, and crisis assessment and care. Grant funding is made possible by ARPA and allocated by Cook County government. The open call for proposals will close on April 17 at 5 PM. More information is available at <https://cookcountyhealth.org/strongertogether/>

Cook County Health and the Cook County Department of Public Health are collaborating with local, state and federal public health partners to respond to a rise in measles cases in the City of Chicago. CCH has implemented a robust internal response and is also sharing information publicly about measles symptoms and vaccination through a series of multilingual materials. Patients and community members who wish to get vaccinated against the measles are encouraged to **call 833-308-1988 to make a measles appointment at a CCH location**.

Local

- The week of February 26, CCH leadership appeared before the following Cook County Board committees to provide testimony and respond to questions from Commissioners.
 - **Health & Hospitals Committee Public Hearing** – CCH Board Director & CEO Search Committee Chair Raul Garza appeared before the committee along with Spencer Stuart executives, Brian Barton & Gregory Vaughan. Spencer Stuart is the executive search firm CCH engaged to conduct a search for the CCH CEO. The purpose of the hearing was to hear from the public and Cook County Commissioners on the attributes they feel are important in the next CCH CEO.
 - **Health & Hospitals Committee** – Dr. Erik Mikaitis and Dr. Rami Doukky, Chief of the Division of Adult Cardiology & Interim Director of the Heart Institute presented to the Committee CCH's Semi-Annual Disparities Report on the Change Institute – Cardiology
 - **Asset Management Committee** – Earl Manning, Cook County Director of Capital Planning appeared before the committee to present on a contract increase with Globetrotters Engineering for work on a tunnel underneath Cermak. Craig Williams, CCH Chief Administrative Officer was available to respond to Commissioner questions.
- The week of March 4, CCH leadership appeared before the following Cook County Board committees to provide testimony and respond to questions from Commissioners.
 - **Health & Hospitals Committee** – Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck presented to the committee CCDPH's 1st Quarterly Report – Immunization Awareness Campaign.
 - **Finance Committee** – Pam Cassara, CCH CFO addressed questions related to the County's Monthly Revenues and Expenses Report as well as CCH finances. CCH Interim CEO Erik Mikaitis was also available to respond to questions. There was no CCH Monthly Report to the Cook County Board presented at this meeting due to the timing of the County Board Meetings in February (29th) and March (14th) meetings. The CCH Monthly Report is a compilation of the metrics and presentations made to the CCH Board of Directors from the previous month.
 - **Audit Committee** – Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck participated in the meeting to respond to Commissioner questions related to the audit of the Building Healthy Communities ARPA funds grant.

- **Labor Committee** – Carrie Pramuk-Volk, CCH Interim Chief Human Resources Officer to respond to Commissioner questions related to the *Strengthening the Healthcare Workforce Resolution*.

State

- Both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly were in Springfield earlier this month and will return following the primary election on Tuesday, March 19. After this week, the House returns April 2 and the Senate returns April 9.

The Senate deadline to pass substantive bills out of committee was last Friday, March 15 and the House deadline is April 12. The scheduled adjournment date is May 24 and the state fiscal year ends June 30.

- Cook County Health's 2024 state legislative priorities include:
 - Secure annual appropriations to fund the [Equity and Representation in Health Care Act](#), which provides loan repayment and scholarships to health care providers working at CCH facilities and at FQHCs.
 - Status: \$3M included in Governor's proposed FY2025 budget for the Illinois Department of Public Health.
 - Protect and strengthen Medicaid.
 - Status: The Governor's proposed FY2025 budget maintains reimbursement rates, eligibility, and coverage in the Medicaid program. The proposed budget includes \$629M to maintain Medicaid-like coverage for immigrant adults 42+ years; these funds do not allow for the lifting of the enrollment freeze that has been in place since 2023.
 - Support legislation that promotes harm reduction and prioritizes treatment instead of only imposing criminal penalties.
 - Status: [HB2/SB78](#) would authorize an overdose prevention site in Chicago. [SB1830](#) would reclassify low-level possession of narcotics from a felony to a misdemeanor and offer access to treatment for those who need it. These bills each have over a dozen co-sponsors and await assignment to committee.
 - Advocate for increased funding to local health departments.
 - Status: [HB4823](#), HA1 would add \$10M to the local health protection grant line in the Illinois Department of Public Health, above the Governor's proposed FY2025 budget.
- Governor Pritzker [appointed Morgan Winters](#) as Illinois Health Insurance Marketplace Director. Winters previously served as the Marketplace Director in Minnesota. His appointment requires Senate confirmation.

Illinois is establishing a state-based health insurance marketplace, with the opportunity for Illinois residents to enroll in private insurance plans starting November 1, 2025 for coverage starting in 2026. A state-based marketplace will give Illinois greater autonomy and authority to offer state-sponsored subsidies and products that better serve uninsured residents, as well as allow for real-time sharing of data with Illinois Medicaid.

- The [Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services](#) announced upcoming changes for the Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults/Seniors (HBIA/S) program, including:

- Starting April 1, conducting redeterminations for HBIA/S, similar to the process undertaken for those in traditional Medicaid; and
- Referring Legal Permanent Residents (LPRs) who have been in the United States for fewer than five years to the Marketplace, where they can purchase private insurance coverage with premium subsidies and cost-sharing reductions.

In the announcement, HFS said that they would encourage and assist HBIA/S members with enrolling in an ACA Marketplace plan and working with the Illinois Department of Insurance to ensure that Navigators can assist with this effort. Once LPRs reach five years of US residency, they would be eligible to enroll into traditional Medicaid, which would be federally matchable.

New enrollments into HBIA/S for low-income immigrants 42+ remains frozen, per actions that were taken by HFS in July and November of 2023. HFS has not announced details on when HBIA/S new enrollments will re-open.

Federal

- Congress has had a busy late February, early March work period, including the passage of another short-term continuing resolution (CR) on Feb. 29 before a partial government shutdown in March; the enactment of the first six-bill FY 2024 “minibus” appropriations package; and making progress toward the second six-bill minibus, with another deadline looming at midnight March 22. Meanwhile President Biden delivered the State of the Union before a joint session of Congress on March 7, and submitted his FY 2025 budget request to Congress on March 11. Conversations toward advancing emergency supplemental appropriations for national security, including immigration/border reforms, and aid to foreign allies continue, though a path forward is still unclear.
- **FY 2024 Appropriations Process**

On Feb. 29, the House and Senate both passed the fourth FY 2024 CR which extended current spending levels through March 8 for four of the annual appropriations bills, and through March 22 for the remaining eight bills, including the large and controversial Labor-HHS-Education, Defense and Department of Homeland Security bills.

On March 9, President Biden signed the first six bills into law as the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024, the House and Senate having passed the bill on March 6 and 8, respectively.

Consolidated Appropriations Act also included a “skinny” package of bipartisan health provisions. This included a provision eliminating the statutory cuts to the Medicaid disproportionate share hospital program (DSH) through the end of calendar year 2024. The cuts were temporarily delayed by the first three CRs and this provision eliminates the \$8 billion cut scheduled to go into effect in FY 2024 and also delays the \$8 billion cut scheduled for FY 2025 through the first quarter. Medicaid DSH advocates, including Cook County/CCH, are aiming to push for additional relief during a post-election lame duck session at the end of the year. ***Relief from the statutory Medicaid DSH cuts has been an advocacy priority of Cook County and Cook County Health.***

In addition to addressing the Medicaid DSH cuts, the health package also extended funding for Community Health Centers, the National Health Service Corps and other public health programs through Dec. 31. The bill would make permanent the Medicaid state plan option to cover short term stays in institutions for mental disease (IMDs) for the treatment of substance use disorder (SUD). Many states are currently testing a similar approach under Section 1115 demonstration waivers, and the option of adopting a longer-term state plan amendment (SPA) for these services may be attractive.

While advocates, including NACo and Cook County/CCH, had called for inclusion of robust Medicaid inmate exclusion reforms which were ultimately not included in this package, the final bill did provide some incremental reforms. In order to streamline reentry, it prohibits states from terminating Medicaid enrollment for incarcerated individuals, while allowing them to suspend coverage. It also authorizes grants for states to improve their capacity to promote continuity of care for Medicaid and CHIP eligible justice-involved individuals and directs HHS to issue guidance on the subject. ***Reforming the statutory Medicaid inmate payment exclusion has been an advocacy priority of Cook County and Cook County Health.***

- **Biden-Harris Administration Action**

On March 11, President Biden released his proposed budget for FY 2025, which lays out his tax, spending and policy priorities for the federal government.

For Medicaid and CHIP, the Administration proposes to bar states from charging CHIP enrollment fees or premiums, to create a new state continuous coverage option for enrollees under 19 years old for three years, and to eliminate Medicaid caps for the U.S. territories.

The budget proposal also reiterates the State of the Union call for Congress to give continuous coverage for children until six years old and provide a Medicaid-like coverage option for people in states that have not taken up the ACA Medicaid expansion.

With the FY 2024 process still incomplete, over five months into the fiscal year, with a closely divided Congress and a general election on the horizon, the most ambitious proposals in the budget are unlikely to become law in the 118th Congress. Having said that, the proposals do indicate the Administration's priorities and suggest what they would try to accomplish in a second term.

Below are some of the budget proposals for CCH priority programs and other items of potential interest in the budget for HHS.

- Ryan White HIV/AIDS Programs and Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative: requests \$2.581 billion, \$10 million over FY 2023 [N.B. FY 2023 is the most recent enacted comparison for programs within HHS, since Congress has not yet passed the FY 2024 Labor-HHS-Education appropriations bill.]
- Community Mental Health Services Block Grant: requests \$1.043 billion, \$35 million over FY 2023 enacted.
- Substance Use Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Block Grant: requests \$2.008 billion, the same as FY 2023 enacted.
- Public Health Infrastructure: requests \$350 million, the same as FY 2023 enacted.

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.

Through March 15, CCH's Fresh Truck partnership with GCFD resulted in 497 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 49,228 households, representing 162,840 individuals. Most of the individuals benefiting from the Fresh Truck screened positive for food insecurity at a CCH health center visit.

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

- April 2 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, 60546
- April 4 – **Austin Health Center** - 4800 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, 60651
- April 9 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** - 1645 Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, 60411
- April 18 – **Englewood Health Center** - 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, 60621
- April 16 – **Robbins Health Center** - 13450 S. Kedzie Avenue, Robbins, 60472
- May 2 – **Prieto Health Center** – 2424 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, 60623
- May 14 – **Provident Hospital/Sengstacke Health Center** – 500 E. 51st St., Chicago, IL 60615
- May 17 – **Core Center** - 2020 W. Harrison St., Chicago, IL 60612
- May 16 – **Arlington Heights Health Center** - 3250 N. Arlington Heights Rd. Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- May 23 – **Blue Island Health Center** - 12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

Redetermination Events

Cook County Health and CountyCare are currently hosting a series of Rede events in the System's facilities, other FQHCs and community partners. Rede events target CountyCare members living in or close to the zip codes of the hosting site. Members receive calls, postal correspondence, email, and texts advising them of the event happening in their vicinity.

- April 1 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546
- April 3 – **Belmont Cragin Health Center** – 5501 W. Fullerton, Chicago, IL 60639
- April 4 – **Friend Health** – 6250 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago IL 60637
- April 8 – **Austin Health Center** – 4800 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60651
- April 9 – **Robbins Health Center** – 13450 S. Kedzie Ave Robbins, IL 60472
- April 10 – **Primecare Health Center** – 5635 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60634
- April 10 – **Provident Hospital** – 500 E. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- April 11 – **Alivio Health** - 2021 S Morgan St., Chicago, IL 60608
- April 12 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- April 16 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** – 1645 S. Cottage Grove Ave Ford Heights, IL 60411
- April 17 – **Stroger Hospital** – 1969 W. Ogden, Chicago, IL 60612
- April 18 – **Friend Health** – 5635 S. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60629
- April 18 – **Care for Friends** – 5749 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, IL 60660
- April 19 – **Arlington Heights Health Center** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- April 22 – **Blue Island Health Center** – 12757 S. Western Avenue, Blue Island, IL 60406
- April 23 – **Esperanza Health Center** – 4700 S. California Ave Chicago, IL 60632
- April 24 – **Provident Hospital** – 500 E. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615

- April 25 – **Chicago Family Health Center** – 9119 S Exchange Ave Chicago, IL 60617
- April 26 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- April 30 – **Lawndale Christian Health Center** – 3750 W. Ogden Ave., Chicago, IL 60623

CCH Community Advisory Councils

Cook County Health Advisory Councils include patients, community and religious organizations and serve as a way to promote our services in the communities where our centers are located. The Councils provide feedback to our staff and help strengthen our health center's relationships in the community. The councils meet quarterly to provide current information on Cook County Health and as an avenue for members to share information about their organizations.

The 2024 Second Quarter topic presentations include the CCH's Programs by the Chief Operating Officer and CountyCare's Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults (HBIA) presentation. In addition, the meeting provides updates on Cook County Health, Community Outreach, and each clinic's programs.

Upcoming CAC meeting dates, including the 2024 schedule:

- Provident/Sengstacke: Wednesday at 9:00 AM: April 10, July 10, October 9
500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609
- Cottage Grove: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: April 23, July 23, October 22
1645 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411
- Blue Island: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: May 15, August 14, November 13
12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406
- Arlington Heights: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: May 21, August 20, November 19
3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- Prieto: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: June 4, September 3, December 3
2424 S. Pulaski, Chicago, IL 60623
- Robbins: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: June 11, September 19, December 10
13450 S. Kedzie Road, Robbins, IL 60472
- North Riverside: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: June 12, September 11, December 11
1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546
- Englewood: Thursday at 1:00 PM - June 13, September 12, December 12
1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621

Event Participation in March and April:

Outreach staff will participate in the following events to promote both Cook County Health and CountyCare (especially Redetermination) to attendees.

- 1) March 23, 2024 – Participation in **Commissioner Monica Gordon’s Trauma Training** which will take place at the Roseland Hospital located at 45 W. 155th Street in Chicago, IL 60609. The Healing Hurt People team will participate in the training.
- 2) March 30, 2024 – Participation in **Commissioner Monica Gordon’s Trauma Training** which will take place at Prairie State College located at 202 S. Halsted in Chicago Heights, IL 60411. The Healing Hurt People team will participate in the training.
- 3) April 6, 2024 – Participation in the **Girls Health Matters Summit 2024** which is hosted by M.E.A.N. Girls Empowerment will be held at the Morgan Park Academy located at 2153 W. 111th Street in Chicago, IL 60643. The CCH’s Family Planning and Women and Children’s teams will also attend to promote their programs.
- 4) April 10, 2024 – Participation in the **Annual Mental Health and Wellness Resource Fair at Triton College** which will be held at the college’s cafeteria located at 2000 5th Avenue in River Grove, IL 60171. CCH’s Behavioral Health team will also attend to promote their programs.
- 5) April 11, 2024 – Participation in the **Teamwork Englewood’s Englewood Job Fair and Employment Resource Fair** which will be held at Hamilton Park located at 513 W. 72nd Street in Chicago, IL 60621.
- 6) April 12, 2024 - Participation in **The Latino Family Wellness & Health Equity Fiesta Tour** which is hosted by Imagen Marketing Consultants will take place at the Instituto del Progreso Latino Located at 2520 S. Western Avenue in Chicago, IL 60608.
- 7) April 13, 2024 - Participation in the **Posen-Robbins School District 143.5 Annual Wellness Event** which will take place at the Thomas J. Kellar Middle School located at 14123 Lydia Avenue in Robbins, IL 60472.
- 8) April 14, 2024 - Participation in the **Village of Matteson and Rich Township Mental Health Summit** which will take place at the Victory Apostolic Church located at 20801 Matteson Drive in Matteson, IL 60443.
- 9) April 20, 2024 - Participation in the **United Palatine Coalition’s 2nd Annual Wellness Resource Fair** which will take place at the Buehler YMCA located at 1400 W. Northwest Highway in Palatine, IL 60067. Special promotion of the Arlington Heights Health Center will occur at this event.
- 10) April 25, 2024 – Participation in the **Sterling Site Access Solution Safety and Health Fair** which will take place at their site located at 501 East 151st Street in Phoenix, IL 60426.
- 11) April 25, 2024 - Participation in the **Southland Care Coordination Partners’ Celebrating 10 Years of Service** which will take place at the 2555 Lincoln Highway in Olympia Fields, IL 60461.
- 12) April 27, 2024 - Participation in the **Hanover Park Health & Resource Fair** which will take place at the Hanover Park Park District located at 1752 Maple Avenue in Hanover Park, IL 60133.