



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

DR. ERIK MIKAITIS
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
APRIL 26, 2024

Employee Recognition

Dr. Chantal Tinfang, Family Medicine physician at Provident Hospital's Sengstacke Health Center was voted as Cook County Health's 2024 Doctor of the Year. Dr. Tinfang has been with Cook County Health since 2009. She is dedicated to preventive care and has worked on several federally-funded projects centered around blood pressure control, particularly with African American patients, including an ongoing project sponsored by the American College of Preventive Medicine in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Congratulations to **Rafael Medrano**, a perioperative nurse at Provident Hospital, for being recognized as a DAISY Award honoree! The DAISY Award is a recognition program to celebrate and recognize nurses by collecting nominations from patients, families, and co-workers.

Beena Peters, Chief Nursing Executive, and **Beth Vaclavik**, Associate Chief Nursing Executive, were selected to be part of the Johnson & Johnson Nurse Innovation Fellowship, powered by Penn Nursing and the Wharton School. This one-year, team-based nursing fellowship is focused on powering-up nurse-led innovation and leadership within health systems to drive transformative change.

CCH Superintendent **Saadia Carter** graduated from the PER21C program at the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board Executive Institute. The program is an executive development program designed to expand and enhance senior law enforcement leaders' strategic leadership knowledge, skills, and abilities.

Stroger Hospital's Cancer Center earned **full accreditation by the Commission on Cancer**, a program of the American College of Surgeons. Accreditation signifies that Stroger Hospital provides comprehensive, state-of-the-art cancer care. Congratulations to the multidisciplinary team who supported this effort!

Staff across Cook County Health participated in the **Patient Safety & Experience Week Poster Fair** held on April 5. Thank you to all who participated and congratulations to the poster fair winners.

Audience Choice 1st Place	Most Innovative 1st Place	Most Impactful 1st Place	Best Team Project 1st Place	Best Research 1st Place
"Joy in Work" Linda Liu Jasmine Thomas COOK COUNTY HEALTH	"Putting Women's Health in the Hands of Women and Their Providers: Digital Solutions with Measurable and Meaningful Outcomes" Ashlesha Patel Kelly Metoyer Yoselin Colorado Shalonda Carter Fidel Abrego	"Hey Doc, call me back." Improving Clinic Phone Line Access for Patient Safety and Satisfaction Reshma Mohiuddin Michael Davidovich Ena Mahapatra	"Joy in Work" Linda Liu Jasmine Thomas	"Feasibility, Acceptability, and Clinical Effectiveness of Advanced Practice Nurse-led Virtual Clinically Integrated Practice Model for the management of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease in an Outpatient Setting: A Comparative Study (FACE Study)" Simi Joseph
	Most Innovative 2nd Place	Most Impactful 2nd Place	Best Team Project 2nd Place	Best Research 2nd Place
	"Reducing Sitter Cases to Support Safe Patient Care" Gins Thachil	"HBIA-IS Outreach Initiative" Sabrina Dominguez Jennifer Cisneros Juan Guerra Nicolas Ramos Brenda Cortina Rose Veliz Kayla Brown Catherine Huber	"Patient Safety and Process Improvement Project to Reduce Medication Error in Cardiac ICU" Indu Abraham Feby George Sherly Chorath, Douglas Hilo Everett Johnson- Hobson	"Stratification of Severe Maternal Morbidity and Mortality by Race and Ethnicity" Joy Ungaretti Megan Adam Kelly Metoyer

Activities and Announcements

On April 9, Cook County Health announced the opening of the **2024 Provident Scholarship Fund** application period! The scholarship program supports students pursuing health care careers who are from, and committed to caring for, underserved communities. The Provident Scholarship Fund offers \$20,000 scholarships to health professional students, including those in medical, dental, physician assistant and nurse practitioner programs and \$10,000 scholarships to undergraduate and allied health students, including those nursing, surgical and radiology technology, respiratory therapy, and paramedic programs. Cook County government and Cook County Health have allocated \$1 million to fund up to 60 scholarships this year. The scholarship program is administered by the Cook County Health Foundation. Applications can be submitted through Friday, May 10, 2024.

In honor of Black Maternal Health Week, April 11-17, Cook County Health showcased several physicians on social media to discuss the importance of health equity. CCH leaders also led a **Black Maternal Health Facebook Live** discussion on April 15 where they talked about what to expect during delivery, and how to care for oneself after delivery. The Facebook Live event garnered nearly 12,000 impressions, 400 clicks and generated 24 calls to the CCH Patient Support Center.

On April 16, Interim CEO Dr. Erik Mikaitis participated in a **roundtable discussion** with the Illinois Department of Public Health, Chicago Department of Public Health, and several other health system leaders to provide feedback on the joint response to the measles outbreak. The group had a productive conversation about highlights and lessons learned from the response, and then opened up the meeting to media for a briefing.

On April 17, Cook County Health **celebrated the launch of the Stroger Hospital robotic-assisted surgery program**. Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle joined Interim CEO Dr. Mikaitis and other hospital leaders for a ribbon cutting ceremony. The event generated a significant amount of internal and external awareness about the new program. The ribbon cutting achieved more than 40 news placements with an advertising equivalency value of more than \$1.5 million. The program is being promoted across all CCH communications channels. Nearly 40 robotic-assisted surgeries have taken place over the past month and plans are in place to expand robotic services to other departments, including colorectal surgery, gynecology and ENT.

Legislative Updates

Local

- The week of March 11th, CCH leadership appeared before the following Cook County Board committees to provide testimony and respond to questions from Commissioners.
 - **Finance Committee** – Pam Cassara, CCH CFO addressed questions related to the County’s Monthly Revenues and Expenses Report as well as CCH finances. CCH leadership was also available to respond to questions related to CCH’s Monthly Report which is a compilation of the metrics and presentations made to the CCH Board of Directors from the previous month.
 - **Health & Hospitals Committee** – Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck, Cook County Department of Public Health’s (CCDPH) Chief Operating Officer presented to the committee CCH’s Quarterly COVID-19 & Infectious Disease Update.

State

- There are no General Assembly session days scheduled for this week. Legislators will return to Springfield April 30 for the remainder of the 2023 spring session. The scheduled adjournment date is May 24 and the state fiscal year ends June 30.
- [Senator Ann Gillespie](#) (D-27, Arlington Heights) was appointed by Governor Pritzker to be the Director of the [Illinois Department of Insurance](#). Gillespie is a health care attorney and was the Senate sponsor of legislation in 2023 that establishes a state-based health insurance exchange/marketplace starting in plan year 2026. CCH’s Arlington Heights Health Center is in Senate District 27. A replacement for Gillespie has not been appointed.
- 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 on the immigrant adults and seniors programs that have 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. Despite having over a dozen co-sponsors, these bills were not assigned for committee hearings and have not met the committee passage deadlines.
 - 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.
- Additional legislation of interest to Cook County Health:
 - [HB5395](#), also known as the Healthcare Protection Act (HPA), sponsored by [Representative Anna Moeller](#), prohibits prior authorization for inpatient mental health care, bans the use of “step therapy”, creates new standards for utilization review, and eliminates short-term limited duration or “junk plans” which have already been banned in 12 other states. The provisions apply broadly to private insurance plans regulated by the Illinois Department of Insurance, with some provisions applying to fee-for-service Medicaid and Medicaid MCOs. The HPA is a [legislative priority of Governor Pritzker](#). The bill passed the House (81-25-2) with bipartisan support and awaits action in the Senate.
 - [HB5142](#), sponsored by [House Majority Leader Robyn Gabel](#), requires state-regulated private insurance plans to cover services provided by doulas, lactation consultants, and licensed certified professional midwives. The bill also expands the definition of postpartum coverage to 12 months and requires the coverage of breast pumps and breast pump supplies. The bill passed on partisan lines (72-37-0) and now awaits action in the Senate.
 - [HB778](#), sponsored by [Representative Theresa Mah](#), establishes a new clinical readiness program to provide “direct services to international medical graduate physicians seeking to reestablish their medical careers and obtain residency” in Illinois. The effort would be a collaboration between the Governor’s Office of New Americans and the Illinois Department of Public Health. HB778 passed the House (106-1-0) and awaits action in the Senate.

Federal

• FY 2024 Appropriations Process

On March 23, the President signed on the second and final FY 2024 “minibus,” the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024. The bipartisan negotiated bill funds the federal agencies covered by six of the annual appropriations bills, including the one which funds the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through September 2024, the end of the current fiscal year.

While most of the federal funding drawn down by Cook County Health flows through the mandatory Medicaid program, discretionary funding for HHS includes public health and behavioral health programs of interest. Overall, the White House and Senate negotiators were able to maintain level funding for many programs in the face of deep cuts called for by the House.

- Ending the HIV (EHE) Initiative and Other Federal HIV Program Appropriations
 - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Ryan White Program Total: 2.571 billion, the same as FY 2023 enacted.
 - HRSA Ryan White Program EHE: \$165.0 million, the same as FY 2023 enacted.
 - Minority HIV/AIDS Fund: \$60.0 million, the same as FY 2023 enacted.
- Public Health Infrastructure Funding: \$350 million, the same as FY 2023 enacted.
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline: \$519.618million, \$18 million over FY 2023 enacted.
- State Opioid Response Grants: \$1.575 billion, the same as FY 2023 enacted.

- Substance Use Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery Services Block Grant: \$2.008 billion, same as FY 2023 enacted.
 - Community Mental Health Services Block Grant: \$1.007 billion, the same as FY 2023 enacted.
 - HRSA Behavioral Health Workforce Development & SUD Treatment and Recovery Loan Programs: \$153 billion, the same as FY 2023 enacted.
 - Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Minority Fellowship Programs: \$19.516 million, the same as FY 2023 enacted.
- **FY 2025 Budget and Appropriations Process**
Congress has begun working on FY 2025 appropriations, which begins October 1, with HHS Secretary Javier Becerra and other Administration officials appearing before the House and Senate Budget Committees, Appropriations Committees and Authorizing Committees to promote and defend the President’s budget proposals. Most observers believe that at least one continuing resolution will be required to extend current year funding past the November elections.
 - **Public Health Legislation**
On March 19, the House passed H.R. 766, the Dr. Michael C. Burgess Preventive Health Savings Act, by voice vote. The bill would require the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to determine if proposed use of preventive health legislation would reduce federal spending beyond the usual 10-year budget window, if requested by Congress. While these evaluations would not be used for official scoring under “paygo” rules, such CBO findings help make the case for health measures which would produce longer term savings.
 - **Biden-Harris Administration Action**
On March 18, the President signed an Executive Order to prioritize federal support for women’s health research and related initiatives. The executive order requires the relevant federal agencies to strengthen women’s health research and data standards.

On March 27, CMS issued a final rule aimed at simplifying enrollment and renewals in Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The rule, initially proposed in 2022, will standardize processes and apply ACA consumer protections across states. It also eliminates annual and lifetime limits for children, permits children to maintain CHIP coverage whether or not their family is able to pay premiums, and smooths the transfer of children from Medicaid to CHIP when family income rises.

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 April 16, CCH’s Fresh Truck partnership with GCFD resulted in 503 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 49,678 households, representing 164,398 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 May include the following ACHN Health Centers.

- 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.

- May 1 – **Belmont Cragin Health Center** – 5501 W. Fullerton, Chicago, IL 60639
- May 2 – **Friend Health** – 5635 S. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60629
- May 6 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546
- May 8 – **Provident Hospital** – 500 E. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- May 9 – **Alivio Health** - 2021 S Morgan St., Chicago, IL 60608
- May 10 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- May 13 – **Austin Health Center** – 4800 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60651
- May 14 – **Robbins Health Center** – 13450 S. Kedzie Ave Robbins, IL 60472
- May 15 – **Stroger Hospital** – 1969 W. Ogden, Chicago, IL 60612
- May 15 – **Primecare Health Center** – 5635 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60634
- May 16 – **Friend Health** – 5635 S. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60629
- May 16 – **Care for Friends** – 5749 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, IL 60660
- May 17 – **Arlington Heights Health Center** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- May 18 – **Health Fair Leyden Township** - Bradley A. Stephens Community Center, 2620 Mannheim Rd, Franklin Park, IL 60131
- May 21 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** – 1645 S. Cottage Grove Ave Ford Heights, IL 60411
- May 22 – **Provident Hospital** – 500 E. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- May 23 – **Chicago Family Health Center** – 9119 S Exchange Ave Chicago, IL 60617
- May 24 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- May 28 – **Lawndale Christian Health Center** – 3750 W. Ogden Ave., Chicago, IL 60623
- May 29 – **Blue Island Health Center** – 12757 S. Western Avenue, Blue Island, IL 60406
- May 30 – **Esperanza Health Center** – 4700 S. California Ave Chicago, IL 60632

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 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:

- 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
- Provident/Sengstacke: Wednesday at 9:00 AM: July 10, October 9
500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609
- Cottage Grove: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: July 23, October 22
1645 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411

Event Participation in May:

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

- 1) May 1, 2024 – Participation in **Mental Health and Wellness Fair** which is hosted by Tiny T-Birds Preschool and Thornwood High School will take place at the Thornwood Highschool located at 17101 S Park Avenue in South Holland, IL 60473.

- 2) May 3, 2024 – Participation in **Chicago’s 2024 Hunger and Health Illinois Regional Summit** which is hosted by Illinois SNAP-Education and Chicago Partnership for Health Promotion and which will take place at Kennedy King College located at 740 West 63rd Street, U Building in Chicago, IL 60621.
- 3) May 4, 2024 – Participation in the **LGBTQIA+ Health & Housing Resource Fair** which is hosted by Chicago Department of Housing, and the Mayor’s LGBTQ+ Advisory and which will be held at the Morgan Park Academy located at 2153 W. 111th Street in Chicago, IL 60643.
- 4) May 4, 2024 – Participation in the **9th Annual Sprint 2 Spring 5K Run/Walk event** which is hosted by Hanover Township Office of Community Health will be held at the township offices located at 250 S Il Route 59 in Bartlett, IL 60103.
- 5) May 4, 2024 – Participation in the **Brighton Park Neighborhood Council Annual Health Fair** which will be held at Shield’s Middle School located at 2611 W 48th St in Chicago, IL 60632.
- 6) May 4, 2024 - Participation in **Illinois Resource Center’s Seventeenth Annual Statewide Summit for Bilingual Parents** which will be held at the Hilton Chicago/Oak Brook Hills Resort and Conference Center located at 3500 Midwest Road in Oak Brook, IL 60523.
- 7) May 4, 2024 - Participation in the **In His Hands Resource Center Inc.’s World’s largest Baby Shower** which will take place at the Matteson Community Center located at 4450 Oakwood Lane in Matteson, IL 60443.
- 8) May 6, 2024 - Participation in the **State Representative Mary Beth Canty Mental Health Fair** which will take place at the Arlington Heights Library located at 500 N. Dunton Ave. in Arlington Heights, IL 60004.
- 9) May 7, 2024 - Participation in the **Berkeley School District 87 SEL Family Night** which will take place at the MacArthur Middle School located at 1310 N Wolf Rd in Berkeley, IL 60163.
- 10) May 11, 2024 – Participation in the **Community Baby Shower** which is hosted by State Representative Kam Buckner, Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry, State Senator Robert Peters, and Alderman Lamont J. Robinson will take place at the Timothy Community Center located at 4351 S Drexel Blvd in Chicago, IL 60653.
- 11) May 14, 2024 - Participation in the **Cook County Assessor’s Office’s Senior Resource Fair** which will take place at the Cook County Assessor’s Office located at 118 N Clark St 3rd Floor Lobby in Chicago, IL 60602.
- 12) May 15, 2024 - Participation in the **Paul G. Stewart Apartments’ Resource Fair** which will take place at the Cook County Assessor’s Office located at 118 N Clark St 3rd Floor Lobby in Chicago, IL 60602.
- 13) May 15, 2024 - Participation in the **Cook County Assessor’s Office’s Senior Resource Fair** which will take place at the Paul G. Stewart Apartments located at 400 East 41st Street in Chicago, IL 60653.

- 14) May 15, 2024 - Participation in the **Worth Township Community Resource Fair** which will take place at the Township located at 11601 S. Pulaski Road in Alsip, IL 60803.
- 15) May 15, 2024 - Participation in the **Prairie Hills ESD 144 Community Resource Fair** which will take place at the Mae Jemison School located at 3450 W. 177th Street in Hazel Crest, IL 60429.
- 16) May 15, 2024 - Participation in the **Legacy Charter School's 2nd Annual Westside Community Resource Fair** which will take place at the Legacy Charter School located at 3318 W. Ogden in Chicago, IL 60623.
- 17) May 18, 2024 - Participation in the **Sisters Working It Out's Love Hope Cure Walk** which will take place at the Memorial Park located at 12804 Highland in Blue Island, IL 60406.
- 18) May 18, 2024 - Participation in the **Provident Hospital Women's Auxiliary's Health Roundtable** which will take place at the North Washington Park Manor located at 550 East 50th Place in Chicago, IL 60615.
- 19) May 18, 2024 - Participation in the **2024 Health Fair in Leyden Township** which will take place at the Bradley A. Stephens Community Center located at 2620 Mannheim Road in Franklin Park, IL 60131.
- 20) May 19, 2024 - Participation in the **Addus and Mt. Carmel Children of God MB Church's Mental Health Fair** which will take place at the Mt. Carmel Children of God MB Church located at 5141 S Damen Ave in Chicago, IL 60609.
- 21) May 23, 2024 - Participation in the **Greater Auburn-Gresham Development Corporation's Spring Health Fair on the Block!** which will take place at the Former CVS Parking Lot located at 79th and Halsted in Chicago, IL 60620.
- 22) May 25, 2024 - Participation in the **Cook County Bureau of Economic Development's Transforming Places Summer Kick-off Events** which will take place at the Gloria Taylor Park located at 14821 Broadway in Harvey, IL 60426.