



# COOK COUNTY HEALTH

**DR. ERIK MIKAITIS**  
**INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
**REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**June 28, 2024**

## Employee Recognition

Thirteen CCH programs were recognized with a **2024 NACo Achievement Award**, including:

- Addressing food insecurity among Medicaid members
- Enhancing healthcare access through Express Care initiative
- Heart Institute excellence program
- Analytics and operations
- Improving employee wellness
- Medicaid member demographic improvements
- PEER Program
- Project REACCH-OUT
- Provident Hospital growth program
- Provident Scholarship Fund
- Sal the sepsis sea otter
- Development of population health
- Great unwinding: Medicaid redetermination

CountyCare's food insecurity program was honored with a "Best in Class Award" in the health care category.

Cook County Health **Director Tanya Sorrell**, PhD, and Chief Nursing Executive **Beena Peters**, DNP, were selected to become Fellows of the American Academy of Nurses. Fellows are selected through a rigorous nomination and review process. With more than 3,000 Fellows, the Academy represents nursing's most accomplished leaders in policy, research, administration, practice, and academia.

Cook County Health showcases the broad and pioneering research being conducted across the health system through its annual Institutional Research Day. This year's Institutional Research Day winners are:

- **Dr. Edwin Gwira-Tamattey**
- **Dr. Stanton Neilsen**
- **Dr. Rohan Gajjar**
- **Dr. Lakshman Mulpuri**
- **Dr. Manoj Kumar**
- **Dr. Nana Yaa Ampaw**

## Activities and Announcements

This month, CCH launched its own Walk with a Doc event series. This doctor-led walking group is free community event where attendees can take a walk (or roll) and engage with health care providers on important topics. CCH was proud to kick off our first event with **Drs. Erik Mikaitis** and **Florian Stroie** and representatives from the PT/OT department at the Provident Hospital 4Men's Health Fair on June 8. A

second walk was led by **Drs. Garnet Meier, Carmen Reid and Kenya Thomas** at a Juneteenth event hosted by Commissioner Stanley Moore on June 16.

On June 10, Cook County Health announced the award of over **\$44 million in grants to 53 organizations as part of the health system's Stronger Together: Building a More Equitable Behavioral Health System in Cook County Initiative**. The funding will be used by community organizations to address behavioral health inequities through the expansion of access to early intervention and prevention, treatment, support, recovery, and crisis assessment and care.

On June 14, Cook County Health was proud to join local elected officials at a **press conference to discuss our efforts to assist Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults/Seniors (HBIA/S) members with their redetermination** paperwork. All HBIA/S members must complete their redetermination paperwork by July 15 to keep their coverage. CountyCare is now serving as the managed care plan for more than 34,000 HBIA/S members in Cook County. HBIA/S and CountyCare members can access resources to help with redetermination at [www.countycare.com/redetermination](http://www.countycare.com/redetermination).

Interim CEO **Dr. Erik Mikaitis** was the opening guest speaker at the **Institute of Medicine of Chicago's 2024 Annual Leadership Awards & Annual Convening** on June 20. He spoke about the need for collaboration to advance health equity as well as CCH's initiatives to improve the health of residents across Cook County.

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and Cook County Health leaders gathered on June 27 to celebrate the third year of the **Provident Scholarship Fund, awarding \$1M in scholarships to 91 students** pursuing careers in health care. This is the largest cohort of scholars in the fund's three-year history. Scholarships support awardees who are from, and dedicated to serving, underrepresented communities in Cook County.

## Legislative Updates

### Local

- Cook County Health's work to address food insecurity began in 2015 with a two-question food insecurity screening, which was later adopted by all CCH primary care sites and incorporated into the CountyCare health risk screening tool. CCH patients who screened positive received a voucher to access fresh produce from the Greater Chicago Food Depository's Fresh Truck.

Since its inception, CCH's Fresh Truck partnership with GCFD has resulted in more than 500 visits to CCH health centers providing fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as some shelf stable items during the COVID-19 pandemic, to over 50,000 households, representing more than 165,000 individuals.

Over the next several months, CCH and GCFD will be pivoting to a different model to connect patients with fresh and nutritious food. This includes piloting an onsite food pantry at Belmont Cragin Health Center and a medically-tailored meals program based initially at Provident Hospital that will further align the health conditions identified by CCH providers with food-related resources following a provider visit. These efforts are funded by an ARPA award to CCH from Cook County; these funds will also support a full-time Food Security Manager, based in the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We are also exploring other models that work best for our patients and look forward to sharing more when details are available.

- The week of June 10, CCH leadership appeared before the following Cook County Board committees to provide testimony and respond to questions from Commissioners.
  - **Asset Management Committee** – Cook County Department of Asset Management leadership along with Craig Williams, CCH Chief Administrative Officer participated in the meeting to respond to questions pertaining to a lease for the CCDPH Vaccine Redistribution Center and a contract for a Construction Manager at Risk (cMar) with Bergland Construction for Provident Hospital.
  - **Criminal Justice Committee** – Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck made a presentation on the public health approach to violence prevention in response to Commissioner Monica Gordon’s *Investigations of Missing and murdered Black Women and Girls in the Chicagoland Area Resolution*.
  - **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**
    - **Meeting** – Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck, CCDPH Chief Operating Officer and Neela Satyanarayan, CCDPH Program Coordinator presented the CCDPH Q2 Report on Tobacco Prevention and Control efforts.
    - **Public Hearing** – Dr. Augustine Manadan, CCH Chair of Rheumatology presented on Lupus in response to a Resolution sponsored by Commissioner Tara Stamps requesting a public hearing on the matter.
  - **Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee** – The appointment of Dr. Sage Kim to the CCH Board of Directors was approved by the committee and ratified by the full Cook County Board.

## State

- The Spring 2024 session concluded with the House and Senate passing a FY2025 state budget amounting to \$53.1B (PA 103-0589/[SB251](#)) and the accompanying Budget Implementation Bill ([HB4959](#)/PA 103-0588) which were signed by the Governor earlier this month. The new state fiscal year starts July 1.

The House and Senate also passed a Medicaid omnibus ([SB3268](#) / PA 103-0593) that makes changes to Medicaid benefits and provider rates, and institutes reforms to Medicaid managed care that were championed by the Illinois Health and Hospital Association.

- 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. This amount is included in the final budget.
  - Protect and strengthen Medicaid.
    - Status: The Governor’s proposed FY2025 budget included \$629M to continue Medicaid-like coverage (HBIA/S) for immigrant adults 42+ years, which would not allow for the lift of the enrollment freeze that has been in place since 2023. These funds remained in the final budget.

- 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 did not advance in the 2024 spring session.

## Federal

- The Senate is out for its two week Independence Day recess, while the House is in for a week before taking its week-long Independence Day recess.

- **FY 2025 Budget and Appropriations Process**

Congress continues to work on FY 2025 appropriations, which begins October 1. The House Appropriations Committee Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee is scheduled to markup its FY 2025 bill on Thursday, June 27. House Leadership have decided to disregard the spending levels in the “side agreements” to the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023, negotiated by former Speaker Kevin McCarthy. This will result in House appropriations bills with significant increases for the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security, and significant cuts to domestic discretionary programs, like those in the Department of Health and Human Services.

At least one continuing resolution will likely be required to extend current year funding past the November elections. If Republicans win back the White House in November, they will have strong incentives to wait until after inauguration day to complete negotiations, in order to advance their priorities at the outset of a new administration.

- **Health Legislation**

Discussions on Capitol Hill continue around potential approaches to reforming the 340B drug discount program. On June 4, the House Energy and Commerce Oversight Subcommittee held a hearing on whether the program is meeting its goal of serving low-income and underserved patients, and, if not, what changes would move it in the right direction.

Republicans and Democrats are divided on the issue with the Republicans pushing to impose new requirements and with Democrats worrying that those changes could harm patient access.

On June 17, Senate Finance Committee Chair Ron Wyden (D-OR) along with 15 Senate Democrats, released a discussion draft bill aimed at increasing Medicaid payment rates for labor and delivery services provided by certain hospitals. The senators hope that the measure would help stop labor and delivery unit closures in underserved communities

Specifically, the Keep Obstetrics Local Act would increase Medicaid labor and delivery payment rates for rural hospitals and hospitals where 60 percent of births are paid by Medicaid, to 150 percent of the Medicare rate.

- **Biden-Harris Administration Action**

On May 30, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released key data on the status of state Medicaid “unwinding” and redeterminations in a letter to state Medicaid Directors and key stakeholders. CMS also announced that starting in July, states will have to begin reporting data on the outcomes of renewals and fair hearings in a new *Eligibility Processing Data Report* that will replace

the unwinding report. The data is meant to help CMS monitor disenrollments and retention, and ensure the processes are carried out without placing unnecessary burdens on beneficiaries.

## **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.

- July 1 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546
- July 8 – **Austin Health Center** – 4800 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60651
- July 9 – **Robbins Health Center** – 13450 S. Kedzie Ave Robbins, IL 60472
- July 9 – **Dr. Jorge Prieto Health Center** – 2424 S. Pulaski, Chicago, IL 60623
- July 10 – **Provident Hospital** – 500 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- July 11 – **Alivio Health** - 2021 S Morgan St., Chicago, IL 60608
- July 12 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- July 15 – **Esperanza Health Center** – 4700 S. California Ave Chicago, IL 60632
- July 16 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** – 1645 S. Cottage Grove Ave Ford Heights, IL 60411
- July 17 – **Stroger Hospital** – 1969 W. Ogden, Chicago, IL 60612
- July 17 – **Primecare Health Center** – 5635 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60634
- July 18 – **Friend Health** – 5635 S. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60629
- July 18 – **Care for Friends** – 5749 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, IL 60660
- July 19 – **Arlington Heights Health Center** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- July 22 – **Blue Island Health Center** – 12757 S. Western Avenue, Blue Island, IL 60406
- July 23 – **Near North Health Center** – 1276 N. Clybourn, Chicago, IL 60610
- July 24 – **Provident Hospital** – 500 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- July 25 – **Chicago Family Health Center** – 9119 S Exchange Ave Chicago, IL 60617
- July 26 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621

## **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 Third Quarter topic presentations include CCH's Housing initiatives and CountyCare's Redetermination and Rewards programs. 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: 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
- Blue Island: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: August 14, November 13  
12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406
- Arlington Heights: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: August 20, November 19  
3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- Prieto: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: 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: September 11, December 11  
1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546
- Englewood: Thursday at 1:00 PM - September 12, December 12  
1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621

#### **Event Participation in July:**

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

- 1) July 4, 2024 – Participation in **Mayor Brandon Johnson’s 4th on 53rd Parade** which will take place at Nichols Park located at 1355 E. 53rd Street in Chicago, IL, 60615.
- 2) July 13, 2024 – Participation in the **Spirit Redeemed Baptist Church Health and Resource Fair** which is hosted by the church and Sinai Health Institute, and which will take place at the church located at 8621 S. South Chicago Avenue in Chicago, IL 60617.
- 3) July 16, 2024 – Participation in **CPS 2024 Back to School Bash** will take place at Washington Park located at East 51st Street and St. Lawrence in Chicago, IL 60637.
- 4) July 17, 2024 – Participation in the **Senior Resource Fair** which is hosted by the Cook County Assessor’s Office, and which will take place at their office located at 118 N Clark Street, 3rd Floor Lobby in Chicago, IL 60602.
- 5) July 17, 2024 – Participation in **Teen Transition Summit for Children in Foster Care** which is hosted by Unlimited Potential, and which will take place at the Unlimited Potential “UP House” located at 13811 S. Western Avenue in Blue Island, IL 60406.

- 6) July 18, 2024 – Participation in **CPS 2024 Back to School Bash** will take place at Columbus Park located at South Central Avenue and West Harrison Street in Chicago, IL 60644.
- 7) July 19, 2024 – Participation in the **Robbins Health Center Health Fair** which is hosted by our Robbins Health Center, and which will take place at their facility located at 13450 S. Kedzie Avenue in Robbins, IL 60472.
- 8) July 19, 2024 – Participation in the **Summit Soars!, SCN Community Launch Event** which is hosted by the Summit Community Networks and which will be held at a park in the Village of Summit.
- 9) July 19, 2024 – Participation in the **Hanover Park Police COPS Day Picnic** which is hosted by the Police Department of the Village of Hanover Park, and which will be held at the Hanover Park Park District located at 1919 Walnut Avenue in Hanover Park, IL 60133.
- 10) July 20, 2024 – Participation in the **Family Christian Health Center - KIDFEST '2024** which is hosted by the Family Christian, and which will be held at the Family Christian Health Center - Harvey located at 31 West 155th Street in Harvey, IL 60426.
- 11) July 20, 2024 - Participation in **Speaker Chris Welch's Back 2 School Fair 2024** which will be held at the Proviso West High School located at 4701 Harrison Street in Hillside, IL 60162.
- 12) July 20, 2024 - Participation in the **Sisters Working it Out's Community Resource Fair** which will take place at the John Rita Center located at 2822 141st. Place in Blue Island, IL 60406.
- 13) July 20, 2024 - Participation in the **Onward Neighborhood House's 4th Annual Health Fair**, which will take place at their facility located at 2644 N Central Avenue in Chicago, IL 60639.
- 14) July 23, 2024 – Participation in **CPS 2024 Back to School Bash** will take place at Harrison Park located at West 19th Street and South Wood Street in Chicago, IL 60608.
- 15) July 25, 2024 – Participation in **CPS 2024 Back to School Bash** will take place at Winnemac Park located at West Foster Avenue and North Damen Avenue in Chicago, IL 60625.
- 16) July 27, 2024 – Participation in the **3rd Annual W.O.W.! Literary Festival** which is hosted by Bursting to Books, and which will be held at the Dr. Conrad Worrill Track & Field Center located at 10201 S Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, IL 60628.
- 17) July 27, 2024 – Participation in the **Chicago Commons Market** which is hosted by Chicago Commons will take place at the Davis Square Park located at 4430 S. Marshfield Avenue in Chicago, IL 60609.
- 18) July 27, 2024 - Participation in the **Sai Spiritual Community Center (SSCC) Health Camp** which will take place at their center located at 70 West Golfview Drive in Northlake, IL 60164.
- 19) July 27, 2024 - Participation in the **Solutions for Care's Annual Healthy Living Event** which will take place at their offices located at 7222 W. Cermak Road in North Riverside, IL 60546.

- 20) July 28, 2024 - Participation in the **Wellness Fair at the Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church** which will take place at their church located at 4543 S. Princeton Avenue in Chicago, IL 60609.
- 21) July 30, 2024 – Participation in **CPS 2024 Back to School Bash** will take place at Marquette Park Located at West 71st Street and South Kedzie Avenue in Chicago, IL 60629.
- 22) July 31, 2024 - Participation in the **Fifth Evanston Vineyard Care Center Resource Fair** which will take place at the Vineyard Christian Church of Evanston located at 2495 Howard Street in Evanston, IL 60202.