



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
August 26, 2022

Employee Recognition

The Cook County Department of Public Health was selected as a 2022 Innovative Practice Bronze Awardee by the National Association of County and City Officials (NACCHO) for its Contract Tracing Initiative Care Resource Coordination Team. This designation demonstrates the highest level of program innovation to meet the needs of CCDPH's communities during the COVID-19 pandemic. The program was noted to demonstrate effective community partnerships and collaboration as well as remarkable adaptability, resilience, and innovation. Awardees underwent a rigorous peer-evaluation process by NACCHO's Workgroup members. Congratulations to the entire CCDPH team, particularly **Dr. Darcie Moeller**, COVID-19 Health Equity Medical Director, **Maureen Rosenbarger** and Jessica Yee, COVID-19 Case Investigators.

The family of a 13-year-old girl who was struck by lightning in Garfield Park earlier this month released a statement thanking the Stroger Trauma and Pediatric care teams and first responders for their daughter's remarkable outcome. The family and Dr. Thomas Messer, attending trauma physician who cared for the girl, also used this opportunity to stress the importance of CPR training. The relentless application of CPR immediately after the lightning strike by both a relative and Chicago Fire EMS was essential to her swift and full recovery. Special recognition goes to the patient's trauma care team, including **Dr. Thomas Messer, Sun Park, NP, Stiby Abraham, RN, and Mia Masuda, RN** and pediatric care team, **Dr. Yomi Akintorin, Dr. Nicole Frances, Ean Pino, RN, and Marie DiGiacomo, NP**. The family and Stroger teams also met with the EMS first responders last week to thank them for their incredible work.

Dr. Jaleesa Harris, a CCH Family and Community Medicine resident, was named to the inaugural class of the Community Leadership Fellows, a leadership development experience designed to uplift Black and Brown voices of Chicago by those who live, work, and lead on the Westside. The program aims to cultivate leaders on the West Side to drive sustainable, vibrant communities. Dr. Harris was also a member of the American Medical Association's Leadership Development Institute Cohort in 2021. In 2017, she founded the community project Mystery Organs where she used cadaver organs to teach health-centered science lessons to elementary and high school-aged students on the west side of Chicago.

The annual Bud Billiken Day parade was held on Saturday, August 13th. Cook County Health was well represented with **more than 100 CCH team members** providing services, marching and enjoying the southside tradition. Both Provident Hospital and CountyCare had floats in the parade.

Activities and Announcements

Monkeypox

As of August 18, the CDC [reports](#) that there are currently 13,516 monkeypox cases in the U.S. with Illinois reporting nearly 900 cases. CCH and CCDPH continue to monitor the situation very closely. CCH is currently offering vaccine at four sites (CORE, Arlington Heights, North Riverside and Blue Island). The CORE Center is providing testing and treatment as well. All services require appointments. Additional monkeypox information can be found in the CEO presentation deck.

COVID-19 Update

Chicago is in medium transmission while suburban Cook County is in low transmission. Efforts continue to vaccinate and boost eligible populations. As of August 22, 2022, CCH has administered 1,018,785 doses of COVID vaccine.

Cook County Health Foundation Annual Gala

This year's Cook County Health Foundation gala, ***The Future is Bright – Moving toward Equity and Excellence***, will be held on October 12th at the Hyatt Regency Chicago and will support scholarships for individuals pursuing careers in health care. TO purchase tickets or learn more, please visit the [CCHF website](#).

Presentations of Note

On Monday, August 8th, CEO Rocha spoke to the **League of Women Voters** membership meeting. The presentation covered topics of interest to the League such as the CCH strategic plan, budget and the Change Institute as well as COVID and monkeypox.

On Monday, August 22nd, CEO Rocha addressed the board of the **Civic Federation** discussing a variety of topics including budget, the Change Institute, COVID and monkeypox. CEO Rocha thanked the Civic Federation for their support of the health system over the years.

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 August 9, 2022, CCH's Fresh Truck partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) resulted in 404 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 43,219 households, representing 142,680 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 August include the following ACHN Health Centers.

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

- September 1 – **Prieto Health Center** – 2424 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60623
- September 13 – **Provident Hospital/Sengstacke Health Center** – 500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- September 15 – **Arlington Heights** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- September 16 – **CORE Center** – 2020 W. Harrison Street, Chicago, IL 60612
- September 15 – **Arlington Heights** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- September 22 – **Blue Island Health Center** – 12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

CCH Community Advisory Councils

Cook County Health's Advisory Councils include patients, community and religious organizations and serve as a way to promote CCH 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 Third Quarter meetings will include information about CCH's Strategic Plan, CountyCare's Equity Programs, the Chicago-Cook Workforce Partnership and the Cook County Health Survey (CCHS) and the Suburban Cook County Health Atlas. In addition, updates on Cook County Health, Covid-19 Vaccination and Community Outreach are provided. Each CCH health center also provides an update on its operations at the meeting.

Upcoming CAC meeting dates, including the 2022 schedule:

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

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

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

Blue Island: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: November 16
12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

Arlington Heights: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: November 29
3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Upcoming Event Participation

Cook County Health and CountyCare will be present at a number of events in September to promote the health system and the health plan including:

September 1	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the Proviso Township High School's 2022 Back to School Bash! which will take place at the school located at 4701 Harrison Street in Hillside.
September 11	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at Mision Luterana Unida's Resource Fair which is hosted by the church and Youth Crossroads and which will take place at the church grounds located at 6720 31st Street in Berwyn.
September 14	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the Emergency Management & Regional Security's Preparedness Fair which is hosted by the Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security and which will take place at Daley Plaza located at 50 W. Washington Street in Chicago.
September 17	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the Pilsen Neighbors Association and the Cook County Public Defender's Office 7th Annual Driver's License Registration Expo which is taking place at Malcolm X College located at 1900 W Jackson Boulevard in Chicago.
September 21	CountyCare's Community Stakeholder Committee Meeting will happen virtually and topics on breast cancer, back to school, and others will be addressed with the community organizations in attendance.
September 26	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the Back of the Yards Neighborhood Council's Blood Drive and Block Party which will take on the street at 1823 W. 47th Street in Chicago.
September 29	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at Cook County Commissioner Bill Lowry's 2nd Annual Men's Health Fair which will take place at the Apostolic Church of God located at 6320 S Dorchester Avenue in Chicago. CCH will do HIV testing and Dr. Turner will manage the "Ask the Doctor" table.

Legislative Update

- Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) [announced](#) that Medicaid reimbursement rates for abortion services will increase by 20%, starting September 1, 2022. Additionally, HFS will eliminate the requirement that providers receive a denial from Medicare before submitting a payment request to Medicaid for abortion services provided to individuals enrolled both in Medicare and Medicaid; this change will primarily impact adults with disabilities.

Additionally, the Illinois Department of Public Health will add \$2M to the Title X family planning program, allowing new provider sites to apply for grant funds to offer HIV testing, breast and cervical cancer screenings, STI and pregnancy testing, and other family planning services and counseling. Title X does not provide funding for abortions.

- Governor Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services [announced the launch of the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly \(PACE\)](#), which provides community-based services for eligible adults in Medicare and Medicaid (dual-eligibles) 55 years and older.

PACE services include care planning and coordination, long term services and supports, therapies, medications, mental health, and hospice care. PACE providers will serve dual-eligibles living in five service areas: West Chicago, South Chicago, Southern Cook County, Peoria, and East St. Louis. PACE services are anticipated to start in state fiscal year 2024.

- The 2022 Fall Session is scheduled for November 15-17 and November 29-December 1. While these days are often referred to as “Veto Session”, the Governor did not veto any legislation from the Spring 2022 session. The Fall Session will follow the statewide general election on 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.

- Legislators have expressed interest in returning to Springfield for a special session to address reproductive health and gun safety legislation. No dates have been announced yet.

Legislation approved after May 31 requires a supermajority (71 in the House, 36 in the Senate) for an immediate effective date; legislation passed with a simple majority (60 in the House, 30 in the Senate) would have an effective date of June 1 of the following year.

Federal

- **Inflation Reduction Act (H.R. 5376), a.k.a. Budget Reconciliation Bill** – H.R. 5376, which reflects the agreement reached by Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Senator Joe Manchin (D-W.V.) – with some concessions to Senator Kyrsten Sinema (D-Ariz.) – passed the Senate 51-50 on August 7 using the budget reconciliation process. House Leadership called the House of Representatives back into session to pass the bill as amended by the Senate on a party line vote on August 12. President Biden signed the bill into law on August 16.

Despite the ongoing push by advocates for provisions to close the Medicaid gap in non-expansion states, extend 12-month continuous coverage post-partum and lift the Medicaid inmate exclusion for returning citizens, among others, the measure does not include major Medicaid or public health provisions. However, it does include significant health policy provisions of interest.

- *Enhanced ACA Marketplace Premium Support Extended* - The legislation includes a three-year extension (through calendar year 2025) of the expiring enhanced subsidies for low- and moderate-income individuals and families to purchase health insurance coverage on the Affordable Care Act Marketplaces.

The enhanced subsidies were enacted as part of the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act but were set to expire at the end of this year.

- *Prescription Drug Price Reform in Medicare* - The Inflation Reduction Act allows Medicare to negotiate drug prices for the first time. At first, CMS will negotiate prices for the ten high priced drugs in 2026, expanding the list in subsequent years. Also, Medicare beneficiaries' out of pocket costs for prescription drugs will be capped at \$2000 per year. There is currently no cap. Medicare beneficiaries' out-of-pocket costs for insulin will be capped at \$35.
- *Improving Access to Vaccines for Adults in Medicaid* - The new law will also require coverage of all Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)-recommended vaccines for Medicaid and CHIP without cost-sharing. Under current law, Medicaid enrollees under the ACA Medicaid expansion have coverage of all vaccines recommended by the ACIP without cost sharing, but coverage of vaccines for other adults in Medicaid is optional, and states can determine which vaccines to cover and whether to apply cost sharing.
- **FY 2023 Appropriations and COVID Supplemental** – On July 28, Senate Democrats rolled out a proposed \$21 billion in emergency funding to address COVID. The measure would provide funding for research on improved vaccines that can better combat new variants and allow for the purchasing of additional vaccines, tests, and treatments. Senate Democrats included the emergency funding along with all twelve of their FY 2023 appropriations bills.

Senate Republicans continue to question the need for more COVID funding and insist that unspent funds from ARPA, or other previous COVID bills, should be used to pay for additional needs.

Most observers do not anticipate an agreement on FY 2023 appropriations, much less the COVID funding, before the lame duck session after the November elections.

- **Biden Administration** – Once again the Administration did not give a 60-day notice on Friday, August 12, that it plans to end the COVID public health emergency (PHE). This means the enhanced federal Medicaid match (FMAP) tied to the PHE likely will extend past October 13, likely at least into the new year. Some Medicaid advocates are calling on Congress to repurpose the temporary FMAP increase to pay for mandatory 12-months continuous post-partum Medicaid coverage. The County has supported the provision in the House-passed Build Back Better Act to phase out the enhanced FMAP after the PHE ends in the Build Back Better Act, but senators did not include this provision in the final Inflation Reduction Act.

On August 17, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Rochelle Walensky said that the agency did not reliably meet expectations and would overhaul its operations after an external review found shortcomings in the COVID-19 response. Director Walensky's acknowledges the validity of some of the CDC's critics. The CDC plans to prioritize public health impact over a more academic mindset going forward.

On August 11, the CDC relaxed its COVID guidance, including the recommendation that people stay in quarantine after a COVID exposure and the 6 feet social distancing recommendation.

The CDC also said people no longer need to stay at least 6 feet away from others. CDC continues to advise that people who test positive should isolate for at least five days, regardless of whether they were vaccinated.

On August 9, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) authorized smaller intradermally injected doses of monkeypox vaccine to stretch out the currently scarce supply of the two-dose Jynneos vaccine. The new administration protocol for Jynneos will allow up to five times the number of doses out of a single vial.