Employee Recognition

As the principal investigator on the original research project, “The Scales of Recovery: Balancing Post-Traumatic Stress and Resilience in the Violently Injured” Andrew Wheeler, Patient and Family Support Coordinator for Cook County Health’s Trauma and Burn Unit, was invited to present at the most recent Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma Annual Scientific Assembly. The presentation gave an overview of data and results in which violently injured patients were surveyed for post-traumatic stress disorder, resilience, post-traumatic growth and community violence exposure. The manuscript for this study has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery.

Dr. Sybil Hosek, a psychologist at CCH, and Dr. Lisa Henry-Reid, a retired CCH physician, recently had their manuscript, "PrEP and Adolescents: The Role of Providers in Ending the AIDS Epidemic," published in the January 2020 edition of Pediatrics®, the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics. This state-of-the-art review article provides background information on pre-exposure prophylaxis, current guidelines and recommendations for use, and strategies to introduce and implement this valuable HIV prevention method in clinical practice with adolescents and young adults.

Congratulations to Dr. Leah Tatebe, an attending trauma surgeon at John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital, for winning the Cox-Templeton Injury Prevention Paper Competition for her work as principal investigator on the manuscript, “Heroes in Crisis: Trauma Centers Should Be Screening For and Intervening On Post-Traumatic Stress In Our Emergency Responders.” The manuscript has been accepted for publication later this year in the Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery and details the feasibility of an urban trauma center screening for post-traumatic stress among emergency responders and providing mental health services. Congratulations are also in order to the manuscript’s coauthors Dr. Faran Bokhari, Chair of the Trauma and Burn Unit, Dr. Andrew Dennis, an attending trauma surgeon, Carol Reese, Violence Prevention Coordinator and Chaplain, and Andrew Wheeler, Patient and Family Support Coordinator.

Activities and Announcements

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is closely monitoring an outbreak caused by a novel coronavirus first identified in Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. The virus is known as 2019-nCoV. As of January 28, 2020, more than 4,500 cases have been identified throughout the world – in Asia, Australia, Europe and North America, with the majority of cases in China. According to the Cook County Department of Public Health, as of January 29, there were 165 Persons Under Investigation (PUIs) in 26 states, including six confirmed cases. Two of these confirmed cases are in Chicago. The second case is a household contact of the first case. This is an emerging, rapidly evolving situation. The CDC is providing regular updates.

The CDC clinical criteria for 2019-nCoV PUIs have been developed based on what is known about MERS-CoV and SARS-CoV and are subject to changes as additional information becomes available. Screenings are being conducted at major U.S. airports, including Chicago O’Hare, to identify people exhibiting symptoms. CCH has also begun screening for coronavirus. At present, risk to the general public is considered low; although, the numbers of PUIs and positive cases are expected to increase.

- On January 27, 2020, CCH officially began caring for patients at its new North Riverside Health Center. An official grand opening will be held on April 6, 2020.

IMPACT 2023 Objective 1.3D
Equity by Addressing Social Needs. The summit will feature a variety of experts committed to understanding the social determinants of health and working toward health equity. Panels will focus on food and housing insecurity, medical-legal partnerships and workforce development. The event will include the following speakers:

**Toni Preckwinkle**, President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**Honorable Dr. Dennis Deer**, Cook County Health Board of Directors; Chair, Cook County Board of Commissioners; Health & Hospitals Committee; Commissioner, Cook County Board 2nd District

**Dr. Aletha Maybank**, Chief Health Equity Officer, American Medical Association

**Dr. Layla P. Suleiman Gonzalez**, Director of Human Services, Loyola University Chicago

**Debra Carey**, Interim CEO, Cook County Health

**IMPACT 2023 Objective 5.2A**

- Cook County is committed to ensuring a complete count with the 2020 Census. As part of the County’s **Complete Count Census Commission**, CCH is working to raise awareness and encourage participation in the Census.

The 2020 Census will determine congressional representation and the allocation of billions of dollars in federal funding for education, public health, infrastructure and countless other programs that our residents depend on. A recent George Washington Institute of Public Policy report cited more than $34 billion tied to Census figures are distributed to Illinois through federal programs. Congressional districts and the boundaries of Cook County commissioner districts as well as city wards are determined by Census data. With nearly 40 percent of the state’s population residing in Cook County, the impact and stakes could not be greater if our residents are not counted accurately. The County is home to many “hard to count” communities, including people of color, children under the age of five, immigrants, non-native English speakers, renters, students and LGBTQ individuals; therefore, County-led initiatives are critical for working toward the accurate enumeration of our residents.

In order to raise awareness about the 2020 Census, CCH is installing posters and distributing flyers at all of facilities, creating a list of local resources for each of our locations, sharing Census information on our website, community newsletters and staff email signatures, inviting Census representatives to speak at Advisory Council meetings and more.

**IMPACT 2023 Objective 5.2C**

- **Through January 3**, CCH’s Fresh Truck partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) resulted in 233 visits to 13 CCH health centers – Arlington Heights, Austin, Cicero, the CORE Center, Cottage Grove, Englewood, Logan Square, Near South, Oak Forest, Provident/Sengstacke, Prieto, Robbins, and Woodlawn.

Collectively, the Fresh Truck distributions have resulted in the provision of fresh fruits and vegetables to 31,030 individuals, representing 103,584 household members, totaling more than 620,000 pounds of fresh produce. Most of the individuals benefiting from the Fresh Truck screened positive for food insecurity at a CCH health center visit.

The Fresh Food Truck visits for the month of January include the following ACHN Health Centers.

- **February 4** – **Cicero Health Center** – 5912 W. Cermak Road, Cicero, IL 60804
- **February 6** – **Austin Health Center** – 4800 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60651
- **February 11** – **Cottage Grove Health Center** – 1645 Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411
- **February 18** – **Robbins Health Center** – 13450 S. Kedzie Avenue, Robbins, IL 60472
- **February 20** – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- **February 20** – **Near South Health Center** – 3525 S. Michigan, Chicago, IL 60653

**IMPACT 2023 Objective 5.1C**
• In an effort to improve the patient experience, CCH is piloting a quiet campaign on 6East to remind staff, visitors and patients that our hospital is a healing environment. Noise in the inpatient unit gives rise to patient complaints and contributes to patient experience scores. The campaign has distributed cell phones in the unit to avoid delivering communications through the overhead PA system. People are encouraged to turn the volume down on electronic devices and equipment when possible. The CCH visitor policy will be enforced to help improve patients’ opportunity to rest after 8:00 PM. Signage has been posted in multiple languages throughout the unit to remind both visitors and staff to be aware of noise levels. Staff members will use a “peer checking” system to remind their colleagues to promote quietness. Additionally, a “Yacker Tracker” will measure the intensity of sounds and signal when noise levels go above a set limit.

IMPACT 2023 Objective 1.2C

• CCH is in the window for Joint Commission recertification surveys system-wide. The Provident and Sengstacke survey window opened in April 2019, while the Stroger and community health centers window opens in February 2020. These surveys ensure compliance with regulatory standards and quality of care provided.

• 2020 marks the end of IMPACT 2020 and the beginning of IMPACT 2023. IMPACT 2020 contained 147 initiatives over the three year strategic plan (2016-19). During that period, CCH completed 76 initiatives. The remaining initiatives are almost complete or ongoing initiatives that are reflected in IMPACT 2023. A detailed presentation is attached to this report that also includes the implementation strategy for IMPACT 2023. We will provide updates on IMPACT 2023 to the board in March, June, September and December.

Select newsletters and media clips are attached.

Legislative Update

Local

• The Cook County Board’s Health & Hospitals Committee held a meeting on January 15 to consider two resolutions introduced at the December 19 Cook County Board meeting.

The first resolution was sponsored by Commissioner Donna Miller and called for a hearing of the Cook County Health & Hospitals Committee to discuss Cook County Health’s Formulary Program. The committee voted to receive and file the resolution and Dr. CaTanya Norwood, Senior Director of Pharmacy Services appeared and presented on the process and management of the Pharmaceutical Formulary Program.

The second resolution was sponsored by President Preckwinkle and Commissioners Arroyo, Britton, Daley, Deer, Johnson, Lowry, Moore, Silvestri, Suffredin and Tobolski and called for a hearing of the Cook County Health & Hospitals Committee to solicit input from the President and the Board of Commissioners as well as the public-at-large regarding the responsibilities, background and attributes necessary to consider when recruiting a new CEO.

Public hearings were held on January 22, 27 and 29 in response to the resolution. CCH Board Chairman Hill Hammock outlined the timeline for selection of a new CEO. Representatives from Heidrick and Struggles, the firm engaged by the System Board to conduct the search were present and spoke to the process for the search.
The resolution also called upon the Cook County Auditor, with the assistance of a professional auditing firm(s):

a. types and number of management positions, including but not limited to the direct appointment positions by the CEO, compared with other large public urban hospitals;
b. a review the allocation of personnel and reporting structure at CCH compared with other large urban public hospitals;
c. a review of CCH procurement policies; and
d. a review the process for determining capital improvement projects.

The resolution requires the Cook County Auditor to complete its review and issue a report to the President, the County Board and the System Board on or before July 1, 2020 so any recommendations may be considered by the new CEO for the 2021 fiscal year budget. Per the resolution, the audit shall make recommendations to the System Board regarding CCH practices and operations, including organizational structure, types of positions, allocation of personnel, compliance with procurement policies and methods for determining capital projects.

The resolution was approved.

- At the January 16 Cook County Board meeting President Preckwinkle and Commissioners Daley, Deer, Lowry and Suffredin introduced a proposed amendment to the Cook County Health and Hospitals System Ordinance. A number of sections of the ordinance are amended including sections pertaining to the composition of the System Board, the selection of the Board Chairman as well as the selection of the CEO, human resource process and collaboration with County agencies.

Commissioners Suffredin and Degnen also introduced a proposed ordinance amendment to the General Powers of the System Board section of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System Ordinance. This amendment requires that compensation be consistent the Government Severance Pay Act and that any contracts with CCH executive staff that contain a severance provision be submitted to the Cook County Board of Commissioners for ratification prior to taking effect. The amendment also clarifies that the delegation of authority to the Cook County Health and Hospitals System Board from the Cook County Board of Commissioner shall not be considered a grant of home rule authority.

State

- Don Harmon was elected to serve as the new Senate President, succeeding former Senate President John Cullerton who recently retired. Senate leadership positions have yet to be announced.

- The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to return to Springfield for the first day of the Spring 2020 legislative session on January 28. The regular session runs through May 31, with the state fiscal year starting on July 1.

- The Governor is scheduled to deliver his state of the state address on January 29 and his budget address on February 19.

- Mandatory enrollment of the 16,000 current youth-in-care with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) into Medicaid managed care will be delayed until April 1, 2020, and possibly later. These youth were originally scheduled to move to IlliniCare effective February 1, 2020.
  - DCFS former youth-in-care and children with special health needs are still scheduled to move to mandatory Medicaid managed care effective February 1, 2020. These families will have a traditional managed care choice period among the plans available in their region.
• The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) submitted an 1115 Medicaid waiver to federal CMS, focused on administrative simplifications and improving continuity of care. The waiver seeks to extend post-partum coverage to 12 months (from 60 days) for US citizen women as well as Legal Permanent Resident women with less than five years of residency with income up to 213% of the Federal Poverty Level; allow for reinstatement to a members’ MCO if Medicaid is restored within 90 days of initial cancellation (currently only 60 days); and waiving the requirement to implement Hospital Presumptive Eligibility (HPE).

The federal public comment period is open through February 13, 2020. The waiver does not include extended post-partum coverage for undocumented women, as this population is ineligible for federal matching funds.

Federal

• While Congress returned from a two-week holiday break on January 6, the beginning of the impeachment process in the Senate will demand the upper chamber’s attention for the next few weeks, at least. The House plans to pursue a robust oversight and legislative agenda, though little that it passes will be taken up by the Senate. Meanwhile the federal courts continue to hear cases with potential impacts on CCH.

Surprise billing, prescription drug pricing and Medicaid DSH cut delay – The end of the year FY2020 domestic appropriations bill extended a package of expiring health care programs, including a delay of the Medicaid DSH cuts, through May 22. This is intended to create a health care “fiscal cliff” as an incentive for bipartisan, bicameral agreement on surprise billing and possibly prescription drug pricing. House leadership are publicly confident that the committees of jurisdiction, including the committees on Energy and Commerce and on Ways and Means, can bridge their differences and bring legislation to end surprise billing to the floor before Memorial Day.

Texas, et al. v. U.S. – On December 18, the New Orleans based U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit upheld the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas ruling that the ACA individual mandate to purchase health insurance is unconstitutional since the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 reduced the tax penalty for noncompliance to zero. The Appeals Court did not rule on severability, that is, whether the other provisions of the ACA fall with the mandate or are “severable.” The Appeals Court remanded those questions back to the District Court for further ruling.

The intervener states, led by California and including Illinois, petitioned the Supreme Court to take up the case directly, arguing that the delay and resultant uncertainty was an undue burden on the states and the overall health care system. On January 21 the Supreme Court declined to expedite proceedings. This means that the case will not be resolved before the 2020 elections.

While the Administration has indicated plans to release a replacement health care plan, top officials including the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the CMS Administrator, have indicated that there is no reason to release any plans until the case works its way through the courts.

• Public Charge – On January 8, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit in New York City ruled that the nationwide injunction blocking the administration from implementing its public charge rule will remain while litigation runs its course.

The Department of Homeland Security public charge rule permits immigration officials to deny green cards or visa renewals to otherwise legal immigrants who receive public assistance they are otherwise eligible for, including Medicaid.

While two other federal appeals courts had sided with the administration and lifted injunctions imposed by district courts in California, Washington and Maryland, the 2nd Circuit decision allows the nationwide New York injunction
to remain in effect. On January 13, the Trump Administration filed an emergency request with the Supreme Court

On January 27, the Supreme Court ruled 5-4 along party lines to allow the Trump Administration to administer the rule. The Illinois injunction remains in place.

Protection of Medicaid remains a key priority for CCH at both the State and Federal level.

Community Outreach

February 1

CCH and CountyCare promotion at the Kelly Hall YMCA's Community Health and Resource Fair which will take place at the YMCA located at 824 N. Hamlin Avenue in Chicago. The event is co-sponsored by Northwestern Medicine and Our Lady of the Angels Church.

February 4

CCH and CountyCare promotion at the Olive-Harvey College Service Days, which is hosted by the Wellness Center of Olive Harvey College at the school, located at 10001 S. Woodlawn Avenue in Chicago. This event for the students and community will provide services such as health insurance enrollment, counseling, mental health support services and nutrition education.

February 5

CCH and CountyCare promotion at the South Chicago Learning Center Service Days, which is hosted by the Wellness Center of Olive Harvey College/South Chicago Learning Center at the satellite school, located at 3055 E. 92nd Street in Chicago. This event for the students and community will provide services such as health insurance enrollment, counseling, mental health support services and nutrition education.

February 5

CCH and CountyCare promotion at the Malcolm X College Service Days, which is hosted by the Wellness Center of Malcolm X College at the school, located at 1900 W. Jackson Boulevard in Chicago. This event for the students and community will provide services such as health insurance enrollment, counseling, mental health support services and nutrition education, to name a few. The Core Center CCHIP team will do HIV testing at the event.

February 7

CountyCare promotion at the Friend Health Go Red Day which is sponsored by Friend Health and takes place at their health center located at 800 E. 55th Street in Chicago.

February 19

CCH and CountyCare promotion at the Cicero Health Department "Healthy Fair" which is hosted by Cicero President Larry Dominick and the Cicero Health Department Clinic and will take place at the Cicero Community Center located at 2250 S. 49th Avenue in Cicero.

February 28

Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the Palatine High School Health & Safety Fair which is hosted by Palatine Township and the School District and which will take place at the Palatine Township Offices located at 721 S. Quentin Road in Palatine.