



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

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INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
January 18, 2024

Employee Recognition

Our sincere thanks to all of the CCH team members who went above and beyond to ensure the provision of safe and ongoing patient care and services during the severe weather experienced last week. Team members took extra shifts, came in on their days off, and spent the night on campus to support our patients, colleagues, and facilities needs. These team members embody the best of CCH and we are grateful for their dedication to those we serve and each other.

The Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship at Cook County Health has been awarded accreditation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). This prestigious recognition reflects the high standards and quality of CCH's APP fellowship program, affirming our dedication to delivering exceptional education and fostering the development of competent and skilled advanced practice providers and commitment to meeting national standards. CCH's APP fellowship is the only ANCC-accredited program in Chicago.

Activities and Announcements

Cook County Health and the Cook County Department of Public Health participated in Commissioner Deer's Food Is Medicine weekly health talks on January 9 and January 16. Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck, COO, CCDPH, Bettina Tahsin, Registered Dietician and CCH Network Diabetes Program Manager, and Nicole Baltrushes-Hughes, MD, participated the discussions with Commissioner Deer on the importance of healthy food. CCH is looking forward to playing an integral role in this County-wide initiative.

Legislative Update

- The week of December 11, CCH leadership appeared before the following Cook County Board committees to provide testimony and respond to questions from Commissioners.
 - Asset Management Committee – Andrea Gibson, CCH Chief Strategy Officer appeared before the committee to respond to questions related to the County's acquisition of the following properties:
 - 5325 South 9th Avenue in Countryside, IL for use by Cook County Health for the Mail-Order Robotic Pharmacy.
 - 467 East 31st Street, Chicago, IL for use by Cook County Health for clinical space for Behavioral Health, Physical /Occupational Therapy and Family Medicine programs due to the planned renovation of Provident Hospital.
 - 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 related to the CCH Monthly Report to the Cook County Board. The CCH Monthly Report 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, CCDPH Chief Operating Officer provided the committee with an update on COVID-19 and other infectious diseases. Amy O’Rourke, CCDPH Program Manager Prevention Services presented CCDPH’s 4th Quarterly Report on Good Food Purchasing.

State

- The General Assembly returned to Springfield January 16 for the start of the 2024 spring session. May 24 is the scheduled adjournment date for the [House](#) and [Senate](#). Additional dates of note include:
 - February 21 – Governor’s state of the state and budget address
 - March 19 – Primary Election Day
 - July 1 – Start of the state fiscal year
 - November 5 – General Election Day
- [Healthy Illinois 2028](#) is the latest five-year [State Health Improvement Plan](#) and [State Health Assessment](#) developed by the Illinois Department of Public Health. The plan prioritizes work related to chronic disease, COVID-19 and other emerging diseases, maternal and infant health, mental health and substance use disorder, and racism as a public health crisis. In 2024, IDPH intends to work with stakeholders to develop strategies, objectives, and timelines for implementation.
- More than 378,000 Illinois residents selected a private health insurance plan during the Affordable Care Act open enrollment period on the [Health Insurance Marketplace](#). Nationally, more than 20 million people have selected a Marketplace plan, making the 2023/2024 open enrollment period one of the strongest since 2016. Additional resources for outreach and enrollment assistance combined with more generous premium subsidies that bring down costs for consumers have driven the increase in participation.

Marketplace open enrollment for Illinois residents ended Tuesday, January 16, but individuals experiencing a qualified life event may be eligible for a special enrollment period later in the year.

[Illinois currently operates a Marketplace](#) in partnership with the federal government. The Illinois General Assembly passed legislation in 2023 that seeks to establish an Illinois-based Marketplace starting plan year 2026.

Federal

- Congress returned to Washington the week of January 8. Agreements on emergency supplemental appropriations for Ukraine, Israel and potentially some immigration/border reforms remain unfinished. Discussions around FY 2024 Appropriations continue.
- **FY 2024 Appropriations Process**
 On Jan. 7, as Members were preparing to return to DC, Speaker Johnson and Senate Majority Leader Schumer announced an agreement on the top-line numbers for defense and non-defense discretionary spending for the rest of FY 2024. The agreement would include an additional \$6.1 billion in rescissions of funds appropriated meant for COVID-19 response in addition to the funding rescinded in Congress’ debt limit/budget deal last year. A statement from Leader Schumer suggested that the rescinded funds would largely come from amounts that states were unable to spend and already returning to HHS.
 With the current temporary funding extension for four federal agencies expiring Jan. 19, the leaders floated a third continuing resolution (CR) on Jan. 9 to delay the deadline until March 1 for some agencies and to March 8 for the rest. Under the proposed CR, funding for the Labor-Health and Human Services-Education Appropriations (LHHSE) would expire on March 8.

As we have noted before, though the Speaker has expressed a desire not to “govern by omnibus,” it will be very challenging to write and pass all 12 appropriations bills by early March without a level of bipartisan and bicameral cooperation we have yet to see in the 118th Congress.

- **Medicaid DSH Cuts**

The proposed new CR includes another short-term delay of the statutory Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) cuts, which would begin taking effect after March 8, 2024. Like the previous CRs, it also extends funding for federally qualified health centers, graduate medical education, the National Health Service Corps and other expiring health programs.

Before leaving for the holidays, the House passed H.R. 5379, the Lower Costs, More Transparency Act, the week of Dec. 11, with a large bipartisan majority. The bill includes a repeal of two years of the DSH cuts. Hospital groups support the DSH cut provision, but oppose controversial provisions related to Medicare site neutral payments, and some price transparency provisions.

The path forward for this package is unclear and may take some time for agreement to be reached.

- **SUPPORT Act Reauthorization**

Similarly, the House passed its version of the SUPPORT Act reauthorization, H.R. 4531, with a large bipartisan majority. The bill includes a provision to lift the Medicaid inmate exclusion for pregnant women in custody. The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee marked up its version on Dec. 12. The Senate Finance Committee mental health package (S. 3430) which includes some related Medicare and Medicaid provisions within its jurisdiction, including a seven-day lifting of the Medicaid inmate exclusion for SUD treatment upon incarceration, and the DSH cut delay. Assuming bipartisan and bicameral agreement, SUPPORT Act and related provisions could advance in the new year.

- **Biden-Harris Administration Action**

On Dec. 11, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced financial incentives to test Medicaid programs to address the maternal health crisis. They plan to provide up to \$17 million over 10 years to up to 15 states to establish a “holistic approach to childbirth and postpartum care that addresses patients' physical, mental and social needs.”

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 January 9, CCH's Fresh Truck partnership with GCFD resulted in 486 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 48,667 households, representing 160,913 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 February include the following ACHN Health Centers.

- February 1 – **Austin Health Center** - 4800 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, 60651
- February 6 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, 60546
- February 13 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** - 1645 Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, 60411
- February 15 – **Englewood Health Center** - 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, 60621
- February 20 – **Robbins Health Center** - 13450 S. Kedzie Avenue, Robbins, 60472

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.

- February 1 – **Friend Health** – 6250 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago IL 60637
- February 3 – **Arlington Heights** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- February 5 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546
- February 7 – **Alivio Health** - 2021 S Morgan St., Chicago, IL 60608
- February 8 – **Belmont Cragin Health Center** – 5501 W. Fullerton, Chicago, IL 60639
- February 9 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- February 13 – **Robbins Health Center** – 13450 S. Kedzie Ave Robbins, IL 60472
- February 14 – **Primecare Health Center** – 5635 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60634
- February 14 – **Stroger Hospital** – 1969 W. Ogden, Chicago, IL 60612
- February 15 – **Friend Health** – 5635 S. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60629
- February 15 – **Care for Friends** – 5749 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, IL 60660
- February 16 – **Arlington Heights** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- February 17 – **Robbins Health Center** – 13450 S. Kedzie Ave Robbins, IL 60472
- February 20 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** – 1645 S. Cottage Grove Ave Ford Heights, IL 60411
- February 21 – **Provident Hospital** – 500 E. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- February 22 – **Chicago Family Health Center** – 9119 S Exchange Ave Chicago, IL 60617
- February 23 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- February 24 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** – 1645 S. Cottage Grove Ave Ford Heights, IL 60411
- February 26 – **Blue Island Health Center** – 12757 S. Western Avenue, Blue Island, IL 60406
- February 27 – **Lawndale Christian Health Center** – 3750 W. Ogden Ave., Chicago, IL 60623
- February 28 – **Stroger Hospital** – 1969 W. Ogden, Chicago, IL 60612
- February 29 – **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 First Quarter topic presentations include the CCH Strategic Plan Update 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:

- Cottage Grove: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: January 23, April 23, July 23, October 22
1645 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411

- Provident/Sengstacke: Wednesday at 9:00 AM: January 24, April 10, July 10, October 9
500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609
- Blue Island: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: February 14, May 15, August 14, November 13
12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406
- Arlington Heights: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: February 20, May 21, August 20, November 19
3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- Prieto: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: March 5, June 4, September 3, December 3
2424 S. Pulaski, Chicago, IL 60623
- Robbins: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: March 12, June 11, September 19, December 10
13450 S. Kedzie Road, Robbins, IL 60472
- North Riverside: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: March 13, June 12, September 11, December 11
1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546
- Englewood: Thursday at 1:00 PM - March 14, June 13, September 12, December 12
1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621

Event Participation in January and February:

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

- 1) January 9, 2024 – Participation/attendance in the virtual **Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer and the Food is Medicine Healthy Talks**.
- 2) January 15, 2024 - Participation in the Southland Ministerial Health Network **Martin Luther King Day Spirit of Excellence Awards** at Victory Christian International Ministries located at 10 Hemlock in Park Forest, IL 60466.
- 3) January 17, 2024 - Participation in the **Higher Heights Advisory Council Meeting** at Cornerstone Community Development Corporation located at 943 E. Lincoln Highway in Ford Heights, IL 60411.
- 4) January 17, 2024 - Participation in the **Southland Human Services Leadership Council Meeting** via Zoom. Cook County Health will make a presentation to this group of over 50 organizations on its Behavioral Health programs.
- 5) January 18, 2024 – Presentation to the **Community Alliance**, a group of over 40 west suburban organizations, at the North Riverside Health Center located at 1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546. The presentation will cover Cook County Health information including the North Riverside Health Center, Behavioral Health programs, Women’s Health, Financial Assistance programs, CountyCare and CCDPH programs.
- 6) January 24, 2024 - Participation in the **Summit Community Network Monthly Meeting** via Zoom. This meeting brings resources and collaboration to this Southwest community.
- 7) January 26, 2024 - Participation in the **Pathlights Aging Organization Board Meeting**, located at Moraine Valley Community College located at 9000 W. College Pkwy in Palos Hills, 60465.

- 8) February 7, 2024 – Participation in the **Sister’s Working It Out National Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day** at Shine Bright Community Center located at 8560 S Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, IL 60619
- 9) February 21, 2024 - Participation in the **South Suburban Hiring Event and Resource Fair** at the Dixmoor Community Center located at 14336 S. Paulina in Dixmoor, IL 60426.
- 10) February 24, 2024 – Participation in the **35th Annual National Black Nurses Day Celebration** at the Apostolic Faith Church located at 3823 S Indiana Avenue in Chicago, IL 60653.
- 11) February 23, 2024 – Participation in the **Chicago Urban League’s 3rd Annual Black Wellness Fair** which will take place at their headquarters located at 4510 S. Michigan Avenue in Chicago, IL 60653.
- 12) February 28, 2024 - Participation in the **Posen Robbins School District Black History Month Celebration** at the Posen Intermediate School located at 14545 S. California in Posen, IL 60469.
- 13) February 29, 2024 - Participation in the **Illinois Action for Children Health Service Advisory Committee Virtual Meeting.**