



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
April 29, 2022

Employee Recognition

Dr. Ashlea Winfield has been named Cook County Health's Doctor of the Year for 2022! Dr. Winfield received the most nominations for this recognition from her colleagues across the health system.

Dr. Winfield is an emergency medicine physician and Assistant Program Director of the CCH Simulation Center. In this role, she educates not only emergency medicine residents in the simulation center but also residents, fellows, and faculty from all departments across CCH. She created and leads the Department of Emergency Medicine's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, spearheading meaningful developments to make CCH a more inclusive and welcoming environment for both patients and staff. She also serves as a mentor for students of all ages, from high school through residency. As one nominator wrote, "Dr. Winfield is the personification of the Cook County Health mission."

Dr. Winfield graduated from Tulane University and earned her medical degree from Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center at New Orleans. She completed her residency at CCH and a simulation fellowship at CCH and Rush University.

Joyce Ogunti, a nurse in the Stroger Hospital Emergency Department, was awarded Judge Emma Shannon Walser Medal for Rule of Law, Good Governance and Patriotism from the Liberian Institute for Growing Patriotism for founding the ACRES (Alfred & Colinette Raynes Everybody Served) Community Clinic in Millsburg, Liberia. Ms. Ogunti and her husband founded ACRES Community Clinic in 2013 in honor of her parents in her hometown of Millsburg. The clinic provides free medical care to residents, most often treating patients suffering from malaria, heart conditions, pneumonia, gastrointestinal diseases, arthritis and more. Since opening, ACRES Community Clinic has served more than 88,000 people. Ms. Ogunti's passion for caring for people in need stretches far beyond Cook County and we celebrate her efforts to improve the health of those in her Liberian community.

Activities and Announcements

COVID-19 Update

Inpatient admissions for COVID as well as the overall positivity rate remain low however CCH and CCDPH are monitoring the situation closely.

With approval of a second booster, CCH continues to provide access to COVID vaccine to all residents of Cook County, including CCH employees. A full list of locations, dates and times can be found [here](#).

CCH administered more its one millionth dose this week marking the milestone with a media event. Additional promotions are being planned in anticipation of FDA approval for the under five population.

Provident Scholarship

On April 26th, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, County Commissioners Dennis Deer and Bill Lowry, Cook County Health Foundation Chairman Joe Flanagan and CCH CEO Israel Rocha, announced a \$1M Provident Scholarship Fund to support students who are from, and committed to caring for, underserved communities.

The Provident Scholarship Fund will be administering 60 scholarships this summer, including 30 to Health Professionals, including medical and dental students, 20 to High School senior students entering a health care program, and 10 to students in the Allied Health/Undergraduate programs.

Medical and Dental students, under the Health Professionals program will receive \$20,000 scholarships, and the Allied Health/Undergraduate and High School senior students will receive \$10,000 scholarships. More information on the scholarship program can be found [here](#).

Dr. Lorna Breen Act

On April 22, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Congressmen Raja Krishnamoorthi, and CCH CEO Israel Rocha, held a press conference to celebrate the passage into law of Congressman Krishnamoorthi's *Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act* which will provide more mental health resources for hospitals and health care organizations to support frontline health care workers.

CMS Visit on Health Equity

On April 20, CCH hosted a roundtable discussion with the US Centers for Medicare and Medicaid on achieving health equity. More than a dozen officials including the CMS administrator, head of Medicaid, Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker and CCH CEO Israel Rocha took part in the event which included a tour of the Stroger emergency and trauma departments as well as a presentation from the West Side Collaborative which CCH is deeply involved with.

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 April 19, 2022, CCH's Fresh Truck partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) resulted in 384 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 41,920 households, representing 138,141 individuals, totaling more than 958,320 pounds of food. 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 5 – **Prieto Health Center** – 2424 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60623
- May 10 – **Provident Hospital/Sengstacke Health Center** – 500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- May 19 – **Arlington Heights** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- May 20 – **CORE Center** – 2020 W. Harrison Street, Chicago, IL 60612
- May 26 – **Blue Island Health Center** – 12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

Community Affairs

As in person event participation begins to resume, Cook County Health and CountyCare will be present at events to promote the health system and the Medicaid program. Events in May include the following:

- May 4 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Chicago Housing Authority's 2022 Mother's Day Make Over** which will take place at Row 24 Community Center located at 2411 S. Michigan Avenue in Chicago.
- May 7 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **5 de Mayo Festival** which is sponsored by Aunt Martha's and will take place at St Kieran Catholic Church located at 724 195th Street in Chicago Heights.
- May 7 Cook County Health and CountyCare at the **Family Services Day 2022** which is organized by the Rolling Meadows Police Department and will take place at the East Park Apartments located at 2260 Algonquin Parkway in Rolling Meadows.
- May 12 Cook County Health's Stroke Department will do a **Stroke Virtual Presentation** to the Senior group at the TRC Village located at 346 E 53rd Street in Chicago.
- May 14 Cook County Health and CountyCare at the **Summit Public Library District 2022 Health Fair** which will take place at the library located at 6233 S. Archer Avenue in Summit.
- May 20 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **Envision Unlimited Wellness Day** which will take place at their offices located at 5080 N. Elston Avenue in Chicago.
- May 22 Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the **30th Annual Skokie Festival of Cultures** which is sponsored by the Skokie Park District will take place at Oakton Park located at 4701 West Oakton Street in Skokie.

Advisory Councils

Cook County Health Community 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 to serve as an avenue for members to share information about their organizations. The 2022 Second Quarter presentations include Cardiology, Stroke, Family Planning, and the CountyCare Rewards Program. In addition, updates on Cook County Health, Covid-19 Vaccination and Community Outreach will be provided. Each clinic also provides an update on its operations at the meeting. We are currently recruiting members for the Belmont Cragin Advisory Council.

Upcoming CAC meeting dates, including the 2022 schedule:

Blue Island: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: May 18, August 17, November 16
12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

Arlington Heights: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: May 24, August 23, November 29
3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Robbins: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: June 14, September 13, December 13
13450 S. Kedzie Road, Robbins, IL 60472

North Riverside: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: June 15, September 14, December 14
1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546

Englewood: Thursday at 1:00 PM - June 16, September 15, December 15
1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621

Provident Hospital/Sengstacke Health Center: Wednesday at 9:00 AM: July 13, October 12
500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609

Cottage Grove: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: July 26, October 25
1645 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411

Community Newsletter, media and social media reports are attached

Legislative Update

Local

- On April 5 CCH appeared before the Cook County Health & Hospitals Committee to provide a COVID-19 and Contact Tracing Update as well as a Quarterly Report on Behavioral Health services provided by CCH by the Departments of Behavioral Health & Psychiatry, Cermak, JTDC and CCDPH.

The Committee also approved a Resolution sponsored by Commissioner Donna Miller (6th District) and Commissioner Dennis Deer (2nd District) calling for a bi-annual report from CCH/CCDPH on disparities in healthcare. The first report will be presented to the Cook County Health & Hospitals Committee at their July Meeting

- At the April 7th Cook County Board meeting, Commissioner Kevin Morrison introduced a *Proposed Resolution Requesting a Hearing in the Cook County Human Relations Committee to Discuss Violence and Systemic Barriers Against Cook County Transgender Residents*. A hearing on this matter is scheduled for the May 11th Cook County Human Relations Committee.

State

- The Illinois General Assembly adjourned in the early hours of Saturday, April 9. A more detailed analysis of the spring session, including the budget and other substantive legislation of interest to Cook County Health will be provided in the May CEO report.

- Cook County Health had two primary legislative priorities in the Spring 2022 session:
 - [SB3695](#) (Sen. Jacqueline Collins/Rep. Robyn Gabel) – Amends the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) to ensure that HIPAA protected health information is not subject to public records requests.

Status: While SB3695 passed the Senate unanimously without any opposition, the bill was stalled in the House, partially due to the volume of bills and the shortened timeframe of the session. The House sponsor indicated that she would work with CCH to pass in a future session.

- [HB4645](#) (Rep. LaToya Greenwood/Sen. Mattie Hunter) – Creates the Equity and Representation in Health Care Act, which authorizes a new loan repayment and scholarship program to promote greater diversity among health care providers when it comes to race, ethnicity, or other demographics. This Act will also build and strengthen the workforce at community-based provider locations that serve a high-proportion of Medicaid and uninsured patients, specifically at FQHCs, FQHC look-alikes, and provider locations operated

by CCH, including Cermak Health Services. CCH co-leads this effort with the Illinois Primary Health Care Association, which represents FQHCs statewide.

Status: HB4645 passed both chambers unanimously with dozens of provider associations, advocates, and individuals in support. The bill will be sent to the Governor for his signature.

While funding was not included in the FY2023 budget, CCH and our partners will be working to advocate for appropriations to be included in future budgets.

Other bills of interest CCH supported included:

- HB4437 (Rep. Delia Ramirez) – Expands Medicaid to adults 19-54 years who have income at or below 138% FPL, regardless of immigration status. Healthy Illinois leads this effort.

Status: While this legislation did not pass, authorizing language that provides Medicaid-like coverage to immigrant adults 42-54 years of age was included in the FY2023 budget, allowing coverage to start July 1, 2022.

- SB3632 (Sen. Doris Turner) / HB4264 (Rep. Greg Harris) - Getting To Zero Omnibus, which includes a \$15M appropriations request that will support increased access to and uptake of PrEP, keep more people living with HIV in care, and continue funding for supportive services. This is an initiative of the AIDS Foundation of Chicago.

Status: While these individual bills did not pass, a \$10M appropriation was included in the FY2023 budget to support these efforts, which will be administered by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

- Enrollment in the Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults (HBIA) began in late March. HBIA provides Medicaid-like coverage for low-income adults 55-64 years of age, who were previously ineligible for Medicaid due to their immigration status (undocumented or permanent resident with less than 5 years of US residency). HBIA coverage does not include long term care or home and community-based waiver services.

As a result of legislative action in the Spring 2022 session, individuals 42-54 years of age will also be eligible to apply starting July 1, 2022. CCH's financial counselors are actively working with patients and others who are likely eligible for these new coverage options to provide assistance with the application process.

Federal

- **FY 2023 Budget and Appropriations** – The White House submitted the President's FY 2023 Budget request on March 28, nearly two months after it is supposed to be submitted to Congress. Congress is unlikely to fund all the President's requests or enact all of the legislative proposals contained in the budget, but it provides the starting point for the FY 2023 budget and appropriations process.

The following is a summary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) proposals of potential interest to CCH.

Behavioral Health (Mental Health and Substance Use)

- **New Mental Health System Transformation Fund:** Requests \$7.5 billion to improve access to mental health services through workforce development and service expansion, including the development of non-traditional delivery sites and the integration of behavioral health services into primary care.
- **9-8-8 and Behavioral Health Services:** Requests \$697 million, an increase of \$590 million over FY 2022, for SAMHSA to support implementation of 9-8-8.
- **Community Mental Health Centers:** Proposes permanently extending the program and requests \$413 billion in FY 2023 to support community-based mental health. Additionally, the budget proposes funding

for **Certified Community Behavioral Health Center Expansion Grants** by \$238 million above FY 2022 enacted and would expand and convert existing demonstrations into a permanent program, allowing all states and territories (including Illinois) to participate in the existing **Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic demonstration**, including the enhanced FMAP. It would also convert existing and any new demonstration programs to a more sustainable Medicaid state plan option.

- **Youth Mental Health:** Requests \$308 million, an increase of \$163 million above FY 2022 enacted, for Project AWARE and the Mental Health Awareness Training program. The budget also proposes \$225 million, \$100 million above FY 2022, to support the development, implementation, expansion, and sustainability of comprehensive, community-based services for youth with severe emotional disturbance (SED).
- **Behavioral Health Workforce:** Proposes \$397 million for Behavioral Health Workforce Development Programs under the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to train paraprofessionals, increase the number of behavioral health providers in the workforce, and promote team-based approaches to care.
- **Substance Use Disorder:** Requests \$11.4 billion, including \$10.8 billion in discretionary funding, for programs addressing opioids and overdose-related activities across HHS. These are foundational programs supporting the Department’s Overdose Prevention Strategy. The Strategy prioritizes four key target areas—primary prevention, harm reduction, evidence-based treatment, and recovery support. *[Note that the budget proposes to remove the word “abuse” from agency names within HHS—including the Substance Use And Mental Health Services Administration, the National Institute on Alcohol Effects and Alcohol-Associated Disorders, and the National Institute on Drugs and Addiction. HHS comments that, “individuals do not choose to ‘abuse’ drugs and alcohol; they suffer from a disease known as addiction. It is a high priority for this Administration to move past outdated and stigmatizing language that is harmful to the individuals and families that suffer from addiction.”]*
- **Medicaid Mental Health Provider Capacity:** Proposes \$7.5 billion for the Medicaid program to give planning grants and a demonstration opportunity for states to improve Medicaid mental health provider capacity, complementing the existing Medicaid provider capacity demonstration program for substance use disorder treatment.

Public Health

- **Public Health Infrastructure:** Proposes \$600 million in flexible funding for CDC to support core public health capacity investments at the federal, state, and local levels. These investments are aimed at enhancing capacity to surge for emergencies, conduct long-term public health planning, and expand or create new evidence-based approaches. CDC is planning to provide grants to support public health infrastructure funding to all states, territories, Washington, D.C., and local health departments that serve a county population of 2 million or more or a city population of 400,000 or more. *[Note that this proposal reflects CCH-supported provisions in the House-passed and Senate HELP Committee versions of the Build Back Better Act.]*
- **Data Modernization:** Proposes \$200 million for CDC to improve how public health data is collected and used and to move toward an integrated data system where information can easily flow in real-time between public health departments, the health care system, and the CDC.
- **Immunization Programs:** Proposes \$5.9 billion in mandatory funding for the **Vaccines for Children** program, and \$2.1 billion in mandatory funding for a new **Vaccines for Adults** program. Proposes \$1.3 billion, \$383 million above FY 2022, in discretionary funding for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases. This includes \$994 million for the discretionary **Section 317 Immunization** program, research related to long COVID- 19, and efforts related to HPV vaccination. Within the discretionary total, the budget also proposes \$251 million for CDC’s influenza program, with a focus on increased surveillance of novel influenza viruses.
- **Maternal Health:** Proposes \$470 million in funding across AHRQ, CDC, HRSA, NIH, and the Indian Health Service (IHS) to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity. This includes increased funding to CDC’s **Maternal Mortality Review Committees** and other **Safe Motherhood** programs; HRSA’s **State Maternal**

Health Innovation Grants program and new **Healthy Start** program initiatives; and other maternal health programs across HHS.

- **Ending the HIV Epidemic in the U.S. Initiative (EHE):** In addition to funding for HRSA’s Ryan White/HIV AIDS program, the budget proposes increasing funding for the EHE by \$165 million above FY 2022, for a total of \$290 million. Funding would support HIV care and treatment for over 76,000 clients in the 50 geographic locations that currently have more than 50 percent of new HIV diagnoses nationally and the seven states with substantial rural HIV burden. *[Note that Cook County is one of the 50 jurisdictions.]*
- **Community Violence Intervention Initiative:** Proposes \$250 million aimed at supporting the implementation and monitoring of proven, evidence-based strategies to address community violence, including strategies in hospital settings, by state and local health departments.
- **Firearm injury and Mortality Research:** Proposes \$35 million, \$23 million above FY 2022, for CDC to continue funding research to identify the most effective ways to prevent firearm related injuries and deaths. CDC will also build upon the findings from currently funded firearm research projects and begin implementation of evidence informed strategies through a new grant program focused on preventing firearm injuries and deaths in high-risk urban and rural communities. CDC will directly fund state and local health departments, government agencies, and/or community-based organizations to implement a menu of evidence-based, evidence-informed, and innovative strategies to prevent firearm-related injuries and deaths.

Employee Health Plans

- **Increase Access to Consumer Protections in Self-Insured Non-Federal Governmental Plans:** Currently, self-insured state and local government-sponsored health plans (also known as non-federal governmental plans) can opt out of several provisions of the Public Health Service Act, including complying with behavioral health parity rules, covering hospital care after childbirth and breast reconstruction after a mastectomy, and providing a coverage if an employee’s child takes a leave of absence from college for a serious illness or injury. The budget proposes legislation to eliminate the ability of self-insured non-federal governmental plans to opt out of these provisions, affording state and municipal employees the same consumer protections that apply to other employees with private health insurance.
- **Biden Administration** – On April 12, HHS renewed the current COVID Public Health Emergency (PHE), effective April 16 through July 15, 2022. PHE declarations enable HHS to waive or modify some requirements in federal health laws and are tied to some statutory changes, including the 6.2 percent Medicaid FMAP enhancement. The Administration has reaffirmed its commitment to give at least sixty days’ notice before allowing the PHE to end, despite some states and advocates asking for a much longer period.
- **COVID Supplemental Appropriation** – Congress failed to reach an agreement on a \$10 billion “skinny” COVID relief package before the two-week recess. The package under consideration was limited to funding for the purchase of testing, vaccines and therapeutics and some preparedness funding for NIH. It did not include funding to replenish the HHS Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) program to reimburse providers for COVID testing, vaccination and treatment for uninsured individuals, which ran out in early April.
- **Reconciliation/“Build Back Better”** – Formal negotiations around advancing a smaller Budget Reconciliation package with some elements of the President’s Build Back Better agenda are on hold, though Democratic leaders continue to say that they hope to advance a measure that can pass the Senate with 51 votes.