



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

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INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
July 26, 2024

Employee Recognition

John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital has been recognized by U.S. News & World Report as a high-performing organization for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, heart failure, heart attack, kidney failure, and pneumonia. U.S. News & World Report's annual procedures & conditions ratings are designed to assist patients and their doctors in making informed decisions about where to receive care. Ratings are based on several factors, including patient outcomes, patient safety, nurse staffing and more.

Cook County Health has received four American Heart Association and American Stroke Association Get With The Guidelines® achievement awards for demonstrating commitment to following up-to-date, research-based guidelines for the treatment of heart disease and stroke. The health system was also included on the stroke elite honor roll and Type 2 diabetes honor roll. This is the highest level of recognition the health system has achieved through this program.

Cook County Health's John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital has been named the #1 most inclusive hospital in Illinois and #10 most inclusive hospital in the nation by the Lown Institute Hospitals Index. The hospital was also recognized as #1 in Illinois for avoiding overuse. The Lown Institute evaluates hospitals on over 50 metrics across categories of health equity, value of care, and patient outcomes.

Congratulations to Dr. Juleigh Nowinski Konchak, Preventive Medicine Attending and MAT Physician Advisor, for being recognized by the Health & Medicine Policy Research Group as a 2024 Medicine Award Winner! Awardees are recognized for their efforts to build power and momentum for social justice and health equity in Illinois. The awards will be celebrated at the 2024 Health & Medicine Awards Gala on September 12.

Congratulations to Octavia Rolland, Executive Director of Ambulatory, Specialty Care Operations at Cook County Health for being named in The Top 50 Women Leaders of Chicago for the 2024 list for Women We Admire. She was recognized for her expertise in strategic planning, business processes, operational management, and budgeting.

Congratulations to Ratna Kanumury, Associate Chief Strategy Officer, for being selected to for the America's Essential Hospitals Fellowship program. For more than 30 years, the AEH Fellows initiative has been a highly sought-after leadership program dedicated to educating participants on issues that impact essential hospitals.

Activities and Announcements

On July 2, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle joined CCH leaders to unveil the latest community mural at Cottage Grove Health Center. The new mural incorporates subjects and themes

that are unique to Ford Heights and celebrates the positive interdependence and support of the residents of the village and our county.

CCH has launched ExpressCare, a virtual immediate care platform staffed by credentialed acute care Physician Assistants to provide diagnosis, treatment plans and prescriptions to patients with pressing (but non-emergent) medical need. The service is available for both new and current patients. More than 1,100 visits have already completed visits through ExpressCare and a social media campaign has been launched to promote the service.

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 Cook County Board held a Special Board Meeting on September 18 to conduct a Memorial for the late Cook County Commissioner Dennis Deer.
- The week of July 22, 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 contract with Gensler for renovation design services for the CORE Center.
 - **Audit Committee** – Pam Cassara, CCH CFO participated in the meeting to respond to questions pertaining to the Cook County Annual Audit.
 - **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. CCH leaders were also available to respond to questions related to the Cook County Annual Performance Report.
 - **Health & Hospitals Committee** – Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck, CCDPH Chief Operating Officer presented the CCDPH quarterly COVID-19 and other Infectious Disease Report.

- **Technology** – Cook County Department of Technology along with Angela O’Banion, CCH Chief Information Officer participated in the meeting to respond to questions pertaining to a county-wide contract with AT&T.
- The Cook County Board of Commissioners met on July 25. The following items were introduced and considered:
 - Commissioner Bill Lowry (3) introduced a Resolution pertaining to annual Mammogram and Prostrate screenings. The Resolution was referred to the Health & Hospitals Committee for consideration in September.
 - CCH introduced a transfer of funds request. Pam Cassara, CCH CFO provided an overview of the transfer and responded to questions from Commissioners. This item was approved.
 - CCH introduced a grant acceptance for a clinical trial with Gilead. Pam Cassara, CCH CFO provided an overview of the transfer and responded to questions from Commissioners. This item was approved.
 - CCH introduced the Semi-Annual Mental Health Report. This item was referred to the Health & Hospitals Committee for consideration in September.
 - CCH introduced a Resolution that provided an overview of 53 ARPA funded Stronger Together Behavioral Health Grant Awards. Jennifer Brothers, CCH Impact Fund Executive Director, provided an overview of the initiative and responded to questions from Commissioners. This item was for information and was Received and Filed.
 - CCH introduced a Resolution seeking approval of 10 of the 53 ARPA funded Stronger Together Behavioral Health Grant Awards in the amount of \$1M each. Jennifer Brothers, CCH Impact Fund Executive Director, provided an overview of the initiative and responded to questions from Commissioners. This item was approved.
 - CCDPH introduced a Resolution pertaining to the ARPA funded Good Food Purchasing Initiative. Gina Massuda-Barnett, CCDPH Deputy Director of Public Health Programming - Prevention Services, provided an overview of the initiative and responded to questions from Commissioners. This item was approved.
 - CCDPH introduced a Resolution pertaining to the ARPA funded Worker Protection Initiative. Gina Massuda-Barnett, CCDPH Deputy Director of Public Health Programming - Prevention Services, provided an overview of the initiative and responded to questions from Commissioners. This item was approved.
 - CCDPH introduced the Semi-Annual Disparities Report with a focus on Tobacco. This item was referred to the Health & Hospitals Committee for consideration in September.
 - CCDPH introduced the CCDPH Quarterly Report for Q3. This item was referred to the Health & Hospitals Committee for consideration in September.
 - The Cook County Department of Real Estate introduced a lease with Family Guidance Center for CCH’s Austin Health Center Methadone Pilot Program. Dr. Juleigh Nowinski-Konchak was available to respond to questions from Commissioners pertaining to the use of Methadone and the pilot program. This item was approved.

State

- The Fall 2024 Veto Session is scheduled for November 12-14 and November 19-21. The consecutive weeks of fall session follow the November 5 elections. Legislators may also return to Springfield for “lame duck” session days in early 2025, prior to the swearing in of the members of the 104th General Assembly.

- On July 2, Illinois received approval from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) for a [Medicaid 1115 waiver extension](#) that will allow coverage for health related social needs, including housing and housing supports, medical respite, food and nutrition benefits, violence prevention/intervention, non-medical transportation, and pre-release/re-entry services for the justice involved. HFS is still finalizing terms and conditions with the federal government, and has shared in public meetings that they intend to phase in coverage, with the intent of rolling out new services in early 2025.
- The [House Health Care Availability and Accessibility Committee scheduled a subject-matter only hearing on Pharmacy Benefits Managers \(PBMs\)](#) on July 23. This is the second of such hearings that have taken place this calendar year and follows discussions about prescription drug prices and pharmacy networks.

Federal

- Congress returns to Washington this week for a compressed legislative work period before recessing for the August recess from the 2nd to September 9th. Investigations into the security lapses around the failed assassination attempt of former President Trump and the turmoil around President Biden's withdrawal from the presidential race are likely to dominate all discussions on the Hill. The tight schedule is further complicated by the security arrangements required for the address to Congress by Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu on Wednesday. Some are saying that the House could cancel votes the week of July 29 and start the August recess early.
- On July 28, the U.S. Supreme Court, overturned the long-standing principle of "Chevron deference," by a 6-3 decision. The ruling means that federal courts no longer must defer to reasonable agency interpretations of federal statutes under the Administrative Procedure Act. Members of Congress have already begun demanding that agencies, including HHS, identify their current rules that rely on Chevron. Health policy stakeholders should expect increasing litigation and calls for Congress to craft legislation with more precise implementation instructions for the agencies.
- **FY 2025 Budget and Appropriations Process**
- Congress continues to work on FY 2025 appropriations, which begins October 1. As announced, the House Appropriations Committee Labor-HHS-Education Subcommittee marked up its FY 2025 spending bill, H.R. 9029, the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025 (LHHS bill), on June 27 and the full Appropriations Committee marked it up and reported it out on July 10. The House Rules Committee is processing the bill for floor consideration and Majority leadership have indicated they intend to take it up before the recess but given the level of controversy and scheduling challenges, consideration could be delayed.
- The bill includes a total of \$109.5 billion for HHS, a decrease of \$7.5 billion, or 6.4 percent, below the FY 2024 level. The bill includes the following proposed allocations of interest to CCH:
 - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Program Management: \$3.9 billion for CMS administrative expenses, \$215 million below the 2024 level.
 - Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA): \$7.4 billion for HRSA, \$647 million below the 2024 level, including:
 - \$1.3 billion for Health Workforce training, a decrease of \$62 million below the 2024 level;

- \$1 billion for Maternal and Child Health programs, \$152 million below the 2024 level (including elimination of funding for the Healthy Start program); and
- \$2.4 billion for the Ryan White HIV/AIDS program, \$190 million below the 2024 level (including elimination of funding for the Ending the HIV Epidemic initiative).
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): \$7.4 billion for CDC, \$1.8 billion below the 2024 level, including eliminating funding for the Center on Injury Prevention, Firearm Injury and Mortality Prevention Research, Opioid Overdose Prevention and Surveillance, Tobacco Prevention and Control, and the Climate and Health program.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): \$7.5 billion, an increase of \$167 million above the 2024 level.

It is worth noting that cuts on this scale will be unacceptable to the Senate and to the White House. However, the endgame in the lame duck session is more uncertain now. Congressional Republicans say they are bullish on their chances of taking the White House and both chambers in November, which could lead them to postpone the finalizing FY 2025 spending bills until the next Congress.

- **Biden-Harris Administration Action**

On July 8, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), announced funding opportunities aimed at improving behavioral health for women totaling \$27.5 million. The resources are aimed at expanding access to services and improving the ability of providers to address mental health, substance use, and gender-based violence.

On July 10, HHS issued proposed rules that would require hospitals to implement maternity care improvements to remain eligible for Medicare and Medicaid. Under the proposal hospitals would be required to keep resuscitation equipment in labor and delivery rooms, document maternal health training, establish formal policies for transferring patients to other hospitals and have protocols and supplies for emergency deliveries.

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.

- August 1 – **Friend Health** – 5635 S. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60629
- August 3 - **Access Grand B. Community Health Fair** - 5401 S Wentworth Ave, Chicago, IL 60609
- August 5 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546
- August 7 – **Belmont Cragin Health Center** - 5501 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago, IL 60639
- August 8 - **Holden Elementary School** - 1104 W 31st St Chicago, IL 60608
- August 8 – **Alivio Health** - 2021 S Morgan St., Chicago, IL 60608
- August 9 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- August 12 – **Austin Health Center** – 4800 W. Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60651
- August 13 – **Robbins Health Center** – 13450 S. Kedzie Ave Robbins, IL 60472
- August 14 – **Provident Hospital** – 500 E. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- August 14 – **Primecare Health Center** – 5635 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60634
- August 15 – **Friend Health** – 5635 S. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60629

- August 16 – **Arlington Heights Health Center** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- August 19 – **Esperanza Health Center** – 4700 S. California Ave Chicago, IL 60632
- August 20 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** – 1645 S. Cottage Grove Ave Ford Heights, IL 60411
- August 21 – **Stroger Hospital** – 1969 W. Ogden, Chicago, IL 60612
- August 22 – **Chicago Family Health Center** – 9119 S Exchange Ave Chicago, IL 60617
- August 23 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- August 26 – **Blue Island Health Center** – 12757 S. Western Avenue, Blue Island, IL 60406
- August 27 - **Lawndale Christian Health Center** - 3750 W. Ogden Ave., Chicago, IL 60623
- August 28 – **Provident Hospital** – 500 E. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615

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 Chief Medical Officer’s presentation on Climate, Health, and Equity: What’s Your Part? 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:

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

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

Cottage Grove: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: October 22

1645 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411

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) August 1, 2024 – Participation in **Chicago Public Schools 2024 Back to School Bash** which will take place at Gately Park located at East 103rd Street and South Cottage Grove Avenue in Chicago, IL 60628.
- 2) August 1, 2024 – Participation in **Southland Community Meeting and Workshop** which is hosted by Big Brothers Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago and which will take place at Kasey's Banquets located at 17800 Lorenz in Lansing, IL 60438.
- 3) August 2, 2024 – Participation in **Cook County Commissioner Josina Morita's Mental Health Convening** which will take place at her District office located at 908 Sherman Avenue in Evanston, IL 60202.
- 4) August 2-4, 2024 – Participation in the **Black Women's Expo** which is organized by MGPG Events, Inc., and which will take place McCormick Place located at 2301 S Lake Shore Drive in Chicago, IL 60616.
- 5) August 3, 2024 – Participation in **Sister's Working It Out's It's a Family Affair Resource Fair**, which will take place at London Towne Houses - Ida Fisher Community Building located at 901 E. 100th Street in Chicago, IL 60628.
- 6) August 3, 2024 – Participation in the **Bronzeville Smooth Jazz Festival**, which will take place at 3701 to 3857 S. King Drive in Chicago, IL 60653.
- 7) August 3, 2024 – Participation in **Senator Mattie Hunter's 3rd District Health, Fun and Fitness Fair** which will take place at the IIT Campus located at 33rd and State Street in Chicago, IL 60616.
- 8) August 6, 2024 – Participation in the **Maywood Police Department National Night Out 2024 Annual Event** which will take place at Veterans Park located at 125 S. 5th Avenue in Maywood, IL 60153.
- 9) August 8, 2024 – Participation in **State Senator Celina Villanueva's Back to School Resource Fair** which will take place at Holden Elementary School located at 1104 W 31st Street in Chicago, IL 60608.
- 10) August 9, 2024 – Participation in the **Claretian Associates' Annual Back-to-School/ Health and Resource Fair** which is hosted by the Cook County Assessor's Office, and which will take place at their office located at 91st and Brandon in Chicago, IL 60617.
- 11) August 9, 2024 – Participation in the **Buffalo Grove H.S./High School District 214's Back to School Health Fair** which will take place at Childerley Park located at 506 McHenry Road in Wheeling, IL 60090.

- 12) August 9, 2024 – Participation in **Erie Neighborhood House’s Back to School & Community Wellness Summer Fest** will take place at their facility located at 4225 W 25th Street in Chicago, IL 60623.
- 13) August 10, 2024 – Participation in the **Bud Billiken Parade** which will take place from 39th Street to 55th Street in Chicago and which will conclude with a festival at Washington Park located at 5531 S King Drive in Chicago, IL 60637. Cook County Health and Provident Hospital provide first aid support along the parade route. In addition, both CCH and CountyCare will have floats in the parade.
- 14) August 10, 2024 – Participation in **Senator Omar Aquino’s Annual Back-to-School Health Fair** which will take place at Prosser Career Academy located at 2148 N. Long Avenue in Chicago, IL 60639.
- 15) August 10, 2024 – Participation in the **West40 and Morton College’s Backpack GiveBack Resource Fair** which will be held at Morton College located at 3801 S Central Avenue in Cicero, IL 60804.
- 16) August 10, 2024 – Participation in **Westside Pastor’s Coalition For Aids’ Back to School Health and Resource Fair** which will take place at the West Suburban Medical Center Parking Lot located at 3 Erie Court in Oak Park, IL 60302.
- 17) August 10, 2024 – Participation in the **Iglesia Evangelica Misionera’s Health and Resource Fair** which will take place at the church located at 1515 North Homan Avenue in Chicago, IL 60651.
- 18) August 10, 2024 – Participation in **GNT Tri Purpose Church’s Back to School Bash** which will take place at the church located at 12815 Gregory Street in Blue Island, IL 60406.
- 19) August 11, 2024 – Participation in **First Ladies Initiative’s Annual Back to School Health Clinics** which will take place at the 8 different churches throughout Cook County. We will have representation at the following churches:
 - Commonwealth Church, 140 W 81st Street, Chicago, IL 60643
 - Destiny Worship Center, 5510 W Chicago Avenue, Chicago, IL 60654
 - Grace Central Church, 10216 Kitehener Street, Westchester, IL 60154
 - Miracle Revival Cathedral, 2010 St. Charles Rd, Maywood, IL 60153
 - Mt Carmel Church, 740 E 42nd Street, Chicago, IL 60650
 - Salem Church, 10909 Cottage Grove Avenue, Chicago, IL 60628
 - St John Church, 211 E 115th Street, Chicago, IL 60628
 - St Mark United Methodist Church, 8441 S. St. Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, IL 60619
 - Sunshine Full Gospel Baptist Church, 6159 South Aberdeen, Chicago, IL 60621
 - Unity Fellowship M.B. Church, 211 N. Cicero Avenue, Chicago, IL 60644
- 20) August 13, 2024 - Participation in **State Representative Kam Buckner’s 3rd Annual Back To School (BTS) Fair** which will be held at Ellis Park located at 3520 S. Cottage Grove in Chicago, IL 60653.

- 21) August 14, 2024 – Participation in **State Senator Celina Villanueva's Back to School Resource Fair** which will take place at the Rauner Family YMCA located at 2700 S. Western Ave. in Chicago, IL 60608.
- 22) August 17, 2024 – Participation in **Representative Will Guzzardi's Annual Back to School Fair and Community Mercado**, which will take place at Kelvyn Park located at 4438 W Wrightwood Avenue in Chicago, IL 60639.
- 23) August 17, 2024 – Participation in **Congresswoman Robin Kelly's Back to School Health and Community Resources Fair**, which will take place at the Colin Powell Middle School located at 20600 Matteson Avenue in Matteson, IL 60443.
- 24) August 21, 2024 – Participation in **Erie Neighborhood House's Back to School & Community Wellness Summer Fest** will take place at their facility located at 1347 W Erie Street in Chicago, IL 60622.
- 25) August 22, 2024 - Participation in **Berkeley School District 87's SEL Family Night**, which will take place at MacArthur Middle School located at 1310 N Wolf Road in Berkeley, IL 60163.
- 26) August 24, 2024 – Participation in **Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition's 18th Annual ¡Vive tu Vida! Get Up! Get Moving! Chicago** will take place at the UIC Outdoor Field Complex located at 900 W. 14th Place in Chicago, IL 60608.
- 27) August 24, 2024 – Participation in **Chicago Public School's Seward Academy Back to School Event** will take place at the school located at 4600 S. Hermitage in Chicago, IL 60609.
- 28) August 29, 2024 – Participation in **Austin Health Center Community Mural Unveiling** which will take place at the health center located at 4800 W. Chicago Avenue in Chicago, IL 60651.
- 29) August 30, 2024 – Participation in the **West Side Heroin/Opioid Task Force's International Overdose Awareness Day** will take place at the Catholic Charities Father Augustus Tolton Peace Center's Side Parking Lot located at 5645 W. Corcoran Place in Chicago, IL 60644.
- 30) August 31, 2024 – Participation in **Cook County Commissioner Tara Stamps, 1st District Family Health fair** will take place at their office located at 6300 W North Avenue in Chicago, IL 60639.
- 31) August 31, 2024 – Participation in **Cornerstone Community Development Corporation NFP's 10th Health & Wellness Fair** will take place at their facility located at 943 E Lincoln Highway in Ford Heights, IL 60411.