



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

DR. ERIK MIKAITIS
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
September 27, 2024

Employee Recognition

Several CCH nurse leaders were recognized at this year's Illinois Organization of Nurse Leaders (IONL) conference. **Dr. Jackie Whitten**, Chief Nursing Officer, Stroger Hospital, earned the Innovative Nursing Leadership Award. **Peter Sesi**, Director of Patient Flow, earned the Rising Star Award. In addition, an abstract entitled "Decreasing the Discharge Time" by **Josephine Reed**, Nurse Coordinator II and **Sherrie Spencer**, Director of Medical/Surgical Nursing, earned 2nd place.

Congratulations to **Dr. Tom Nutter**, Chief Behavioral Health Officer, and the **Office of Behavioral Health team** for being recognized with the Hero Award at the Thresholds Health's 2024 annual gala!

Congratulations to **Aaron Galeener**, Chief Administrative Officer, Health Plan Services, for being named a 2024 Power Hope Award Recipient by Care for Friends!

Congratulations to **Pamela Cassara**, Cook County Health's Chief Financial Officer, for getting recognized by Becker's Healthcare on their "Women Health System CFOs to Know" list!

Congratulations to **Dr. Juleigh Nowinski-Konchak**, Attending Physician- Behavioral Health, Department of Family and Community Medicine and Center for Health Equity & Innovation, for being recognized with the Medicine Award at the Health & Medicine Policy Research Group's annual gala.

Activities and Announcements

Cook County Health was proud to unveil a new community mural at Englewood Health Center on September 4. The mural was the fourth and final of this year's installments. The murals are funded in part by the Cook County Health Foundation and are part of our ongoing efforts to beautify clinical spaces and strengthen engagement between our health care sites and the communities we serve.

On September 6, the Military Health System Strategic Partnership of the American College of Surgeons and the US Department of Defense Joint Trauma System MCP Work Group visited Stroger Hospital to learn more about the training partnership between Cook County Health and the U.S. Navy.

On September 20, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and members of the Cook County Board of Commissioners joined CCH officials to emphasize the importance of getting the latest flu and COVID-19 vaccines. CCH is now offering updated COVID and flu vaccines to patients and community members via appointment. Vaccines are free of charge for individuals who are uninsured.

Dr. Mikaitis was invited by America's Essential Hospitals to participate in an "Expert Panel: How to Work Effectively with your Managed Care Plans" at their 2024 Medicaid Summit in Chicago on September 23. He joined leaders from Boston Medical Center Health System and the Association for Community Affiliated Plans in discussing best practices and strategies to improve provider collaboration with managed care plans to improve health care access and quality.

The first Ion robotic bronchoscopy was performed at CCH on September 24. The new cutting-edge robotic equipment allows the clinical team to do a minimally invasive biopsy on suspected lung cancer nodules with fewer risks of complications. A press conference will be held next month to celebrate.

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 week of September 16, CCH leadership appeared before the following Cook County Board committees to provide testimony and respond to questions from Commissioners.
 - **Audit Committee** – Dr. Kiran Joshi, CCDPH Senior Medical Officer Prevention Services participated in the meeting to respond to questions pertaining to the Cook County Auditor's *ARPA - Hyperlocal and In-Home Vaccination (NT045, NT046) and Vaccination Incentive Program (NT895B) Review*.
 - **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 August 2024 and September 2024 Monthly Reports* which are a compilation of the metrics and presentations made to the CCH Board of Directors from the previous month. Two reports were submitted at this meeting in that the County Board is in recess in August.
 - **Health & Hospitals Committee** – Dr. Claudia Fegan, CCH Chief Medical Officer addressed the Committee on the importance of screenings and early detection in relation to Commissioner Lowry's *Cook County Birthday Health Screening Program Resolution*. Dr. Thomas Nutter, CCH Chief Behavioral Health Officer and Dr. Kiran Joshi, CCDPH Senior medical Officer preventive Services, presented *CCH's Semi-Annual Mental Health Report* to the Committee. Dr. Biran Conant, CCH Juvenile Justice Behavioral Health Director and Dr. Juleigh Nowinski-Konchak, CCH Attending Physician Behavioral Health, Department of Family/Community Medicine & Center for Health Equity & Innovation also participated in the meeting and responded to questions from Commissioners.

- The Cook County Board of Commissioners met on September 19, 2024. The following items were introduced and considered:
 - CCH introduced the *proposed Cook County Health and Hospitals System Preliminary Budget*. CCH Interim CEO, Dr. Erik Mikaitis and Pam Cassara, CCH CFO were present and available to respond to questions. This item was approved.
 - CCH introduced a *grant award acceptance from Kaiser Permanente Center for Gun Violence Research and Education*. This item was approved
 - CCH introduced a *grant award acceptance from Gilead Sciences, Inc. for the Mater FOCUS Agreement Program* which is a public health initiative that enables partners to develop and share best practices in routine blood-borne virus, screening, diagnosis, and linkage to care. This item was approved.
 - CCH introduced a *grant award amendment from the Illinois Department of Human Services to increase the amount of the Illinois State Opioid Response (SOR) grant award*. This item was approved.
 - CCH introduced a *grant award amendment the Illinois Department of Human Services to increase the amount of the Home Visiting Grant Program*. This item was approved.
 - CCDPH introduced a Resolution pertaining to the *ARPA Healthy Communities Program Initiatives to amend a Subrecipient agreement with Big Brothers Big Sisters Chicago* to expand prevention and community-based behavioral health treatment programs in priority communities in suburban Cook County. This item was approved.
 - On behalf of CCH, the Cook County Department of Real Estate introduced a *License Agreement with the Chicago Board of Education for the use of 25 parking spaces adjacent to the Belmont Cragin Health Center*. This item was referred to the Asset Management Committee for consideration.
 - President Preckwinkle introduced the *re-appointments of Raul Garza and Joseph Harrington to the Cook County Health and Hospitals Board of Directors*. These items were approved.
 - President Preckwinkle introduced the *appointment of Inger Burnett-Zeigler, PhD to the Cook County Health and Hospitals Board of Directors*. This item was referred to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee for consideration.
 - Lyndon Taylor, on behalf of the Cook County Health and Hospitals Board of Directors introduced the *Appointment and Compensation of "Candidate A" as Chief Executive Officer of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System*. This item was referred to committee for consideration.
 - Commissioner Stanley Moore introduced a *Resolution calling for Sheriff's Office and Cook County Health to appear before the Criminal Justice Committee to educate the Cook County Board on their various policies and procedures to address the health and safety of detainees at the Cook County Department of Corrections*. This item was referred to the Criminal Justice Committee.

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.
- The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) has restarted their provider revalidation process, which was paused during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. All providers that wish to participate in the Medicaid program and be eligible for reimbursement need to complete

the process to verify their information in the IMPACT system. Providers that do not complete this process will be removed from the Medicaid program and will be unable to bill for services until they have completed the IMPACT verification process.

- HFS is hosting customer and stakeholder listening sessions to inform the upcoming procurement process for the HealthChoice Illinois (HCI) Medicaid managed care program. The HCI procurement is expected to be published Summer 2025, with new Medicaid managed care contracts starting January 2027. Upcoming meetings and registration details are posted on the HFS website; written comments will also be accepted.

Federal

- On September 10-11 President Preckwinkle and Dr. Mikaitis traveled to Washington, DC to meet with Cook County members of Illinois' Congressional Delegation. The purpose of the meetings was to discuss the importance of Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) Funding and urging members to continue to work with their leadership and colleagues to repeal or delay the statutory reductions to DSH allotments.

- **FY 2025 Budget and Appropriations Process**

The House is preparing to take up H.R. 9747, the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, on Wednesday, September 24. The short-term continuing resolution (CR) will fund the federal government through December 20. The move comes just days before the fiscal year ends on September 30, and after spending the first two weeks back from August recess in an unsuccessful effort to advance a six-month CR with the provisions attached to require proof of citizenship for voter registration.

The Senate is expected to take up the bill and send it to the President's desk with little or no drama.

The CR will fund federal agencies at current year levels and set up a lame duck push to enact appropriations for the remainder of FY25 before adjourning for the holidays.

- The anticipated year-end "omnibus" spending package is also a potential legislative vehicle for extending expiring health care programs and could include repealing or delaying the statutory reductions to Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) allocations. Enacting a Medicaid DSH cut fix before they go into effect in January is a CCH and Cook County legislative priority and was a focus of the September meetings with the County congressional delegation in Washington, DC.

- **Biden-Harris Administration Action**

On September 17, the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) notified Johnson & Johnson that it could face financial sanctions and be excluded from the 340B drug discount program if it does not withdraw its new policy of offering rebates instead of discounts to disproportionate share hospitals. HRSA previously warned J&J that their new policy for Stelara and Xarelto violated the law, but the drug company has continued to defend the policy, setting the stage for further 340B litigation.

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.

- October 1 – **Older Adult Meeting** – 5555 W. Grand Ave, Chicago, IL 60639
- October 2 – **Belmont Cragin Health Center** – 5501 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago, IL 60639
- October 3 – **Friend Health** – 5635 S. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60629
- October 5 – **Commissioner Anaya at Harrison Park** – 1824 S. Wood St, Chicago, IL 60608
- October 7 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 800 S. Harlem Ave, North Riverside, IL 60546
- October 8 – **Robbins Health Center** – 13450 S. Kedzie Ave Robbins, IL 60472
- October 8 – **Rise** – 211 N Oak Park, Oak Park, IL 60302
- October 9 – **Greater Chicago Food Depository** – 4200 W Ann Laurie Pl, Chicago, IL 60632
- October 9 – **Provident Hospital** – 500 E. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- October 10 – **Alivio Health** – 2021 S Morgan St., Chicago, IL 60608
- October 11 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- October 15 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** – 1645 S. Cottage Grove Ave Ford Heights, IL 60411
- October 16 – **Primecare Health Center** – 5635 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60634
- October 16 – **Stroger Hospital** – 1969 W. Ogden, Chicago, IL 60612
- October 17 – **Friend Health** – 5635 S. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60629
- October 18 – **Arlington Heights Health Center** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- October 19 – **Friend Health** – 6250 S Cottage Grove Ave, Chicago, IL 60637
- October 19 – **Provident Hospital** – 500 E. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- October 21 – **Esperanza Health Center** – 4700 S. California Ave Chicago, IL 60632
- October 23 – **Provident Hospital** – 500 E. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- October 24 – **Chicago Family Health Center** – 9119 S Exchange Ave Chicago, IL 60617
- October 25 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- October 28 – **Blue Island Health Center** – 12757 S. Western Avenue, Blue Island, IL 60406
- October 29 - **Lawndale Christian Health Center** – 3750 W. Ogden Ave., Chicago, IL 60623

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 Fourth Quarter topic presentations include CCH's 2025 Budget and CountyCare's Open Enrollment and Choice Period. We will also have a presentation from Cook County's Human Resources

Department on the Taleo Employment application system. 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:

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

Blue Island: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: November 13
12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

Arlington Heights: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: November 19
3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Prieto: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: December 3
2424 S. Pulaski, Chicago, IL 60623

Robbins: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: December 10
13450 S. Kedzie Road, Robbins, IL 60472

North Riverside: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: December 11
1800 S. Harlem Avenue, North Riverside, IL 60546

Englewood: Thursday at 1:00 PM - December 12
1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621

Event Participation in September:

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

- 1) October 2, 2024 – Participation in the **Chicago Public Schools' Parent University Open House** which will take place at the Dyett High School located at 555 E. 51st Street in Chicago, IL 60615.
- 2) October 2, 2024 – Participation in the **Fall 2024 Resource and Job Fair** which is hosted by State Representative Hoan Huynh, the Illinois Department of Employment Security, Equus Workforce Solutions, and the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership and which will take place at Truman College located at 1145 W. Wilson Avenue in Chicago, IL 60640.
- 3) October 3, 2024 – Participation in the **Prospect Heights Golden Years Wellness Expo** which will take place at the Prospect Heights Park District located at 110 W. Camp McDonald Road in Prospect Heights, IL 60070.
- 4) October 5, 2024 – Participation in the **NAMI Walk: Join Our Movement to Fight the Stigma!** event which will take place at Jackson Park located at 5700 E. Hayes Drive in Chicago, IL 60637.

- 5) October 5, 2024 – Participation in **West 40's Digital Life Celebration Resource Fair** which will take place at North Park located at 10040 Addison Avenue in Franklin Park, IL 60131.
- 6) October 5, 2024 – Participation in **PASO - West Suburban Action Project's Annual Open House** which will take place at their building located at 3415 W. North Avenue in Melrose Park, IL 60160.
- 7) October 6, 2024 – Participation in **Cook County Commissioner Josina Morita's Nurtured by Nature 2024** which will take place at Harms Woods, Picnic Grove #5 located at 5600 Old Orchard Road in Skokie, IL 60077.
- 8) October 8 2024 – Participation in the **Chicago City Clerk's CityKey Mobile Printing and Resource Day!** which will take place at the King Community Service Center located at 4314 S. Cottage Grove in Chicago, IL 60653.
- 9) October 9, 2024 – Participation in **Family Focus Cicero's Community Baby Shower** which will take place at the Stickney-Forest Ciew Library located at 6800 43rd Street in Stickney, IL 60402.
- 10) October 10, 2024 – Participation in **Triton College's World Mental Health Day** which will take place at the college located at 2000 Fifth Avenue in River Grove, IL 60171.
- 11) October 10, 2024 – Participation in **9th Ward Alderman Anthony A. Beale's Resource Fair** which will take place at the Pullman Community Center located at 10355 S. Woodlawn in Chicago, IL 60628.
- 12) October 11, 2024 – Participation in **Chicago Public Schools' Parent University Day** which will take place at the William Penn Elementary School located at 2001 S. Throop Street in Chicago, IL 60608.
- 13) October 11, 2024 – Participation in the **In His Hands Resource Center Inc.'s Protect our Future - National SUID Awareness Month** which will take place at the Discover Shine Bright Community Center located at 8560 S. Cottage Grove in Chicago, IL 60619.
- 14) October 11, 2024 – Participation in **Chicago Public Schools' Pullman Parent University Open House** which will take place at Gately Park located at 810 E 103rd Street in Chicago, IL 60628.
- 15) October 12, 2024 – Participation in the **Community Presbyterian Church Broadview's Community Health Fair** which will be held at the church located at 2000 W. Roosevelt Road In Broadview, IL 60155.
- 16) October 12, 2024 – Participation in **St. Luke's COGIC's Helping Hands at Your Service Health and Resource Fair** which will take place at the church located at 814 North Orleans Street in Chicago, IL 60610.
- 17) October 12, 2024 – Participation in **Austin Coming Together's Harvest Festival Trunk or Treat** which will take place at the 600 Block of Lorel Block Club located at 600 N. Lorell in Chicago, IL 60644.

- 18) October 13, 2024 – Participation in the **Greater Galilee Baptist Church Annual Health and Resource Fair** which will take place at the church located at 1308 S. Independence Blvd. in Chicago, IL 60623.
- 19) October 17, 2024 – Participation in the **Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation (GAGDC) Fall Health Fair on The Block** which will be held at the Healthy Lifestyle Hub located at 839 W. 79th Street in Chicago, IL 60620.
- 20) October 17, 2024 – Participation in the **St. Sabina Employment Resource Center Career & Resource Event** which will take place at Kennedy King College located at 6301 S. Halsted Street in Chicago, IL 60621.
- 21) October 19, 2024 – Participation in **Friend Health's Annual "Think Pink" Breast Cancer Awareness** event which will take place at their health center located at 6250 S. Cottage Grove in Chicago, IL 60637.
- 22) October 19, 2024 – Participation in the **CountyCare's Health Fair for Women** which will take place at Provident Hospital located at 500 E 51st Street in Chicago, IL 60615.
- 23) October 19, 2024 – Participation in **Bremen Township's Women's Wellness Walk** which will take place at their headquarters located at 15350 Oak Park Avenue in Oak Forest, IL 60452.
- 24) October 19, 2024 – Participation in the **Better Sister and Brother Growth Network's Fall Festival** which will be held at their headquarters located at 29 W. 159th Street in Harvey, IL 60426.
- 25) October 25, 2024 – Participation in the **Village of Bridgeview Community Fair** which is hosted by Pathlights and the Village and which will take place at the Bridgeview Community Center located at 7900 S. Oketo Avenue in Bridgeview, IL 60455.
- 26) October 26, 2024 – Participation in the **2024 Chicago Housing Authority's Operation Warm Service Fair** which will take place at the UIC Forum located at 725 W. Roosevelt Road in Chicago, IL 60608.
- 27) October 26, 2024 – Participation in **Congresswoman Robin Kelly and Neighborhood Housing Services' Southland Housing Expo** which will take place at the South Suburban College Main Campus located at 15800 South State in South Holland, IL 60473.
- 28) October 31, 2024 – Participation in the **Hermosa Halloween** which is hosted by Alderman Carlos Ramirez Rosa, Cook County Commissioner Anthony Quezada, State Representative Lillian Jimenez, State Senator Omar Aquino, Congresswoman Delia Ramirez, and the Nixon Elementary School will take place at the school located at 2121 N Keeler Avenue in Chicago, IL 60639.