



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

DR. ERIK MIKAITIS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
October 25, 2024

Employee Recognition

Donnica Austin-Cathey, Chief Hospital Executive, Stroger Hospital, has joined the volunteer Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Chicago Chapter of the American Heart Association.

Congratulations to **Ann Sikora**, Senior Director of Advanced Practice Providers, for winning the Physician Assistant of the Region award from the Illinois Academy of Physician Assistants. The award is bestowed to an Advanced Practice provider who has demonstrated exceptional dedication, commitment, and outstanding contributions to the medical community.

Congratulations to **Crissy Turino**, Chief Plan Officer, Medicaid Services for getting selected to join the Carol Emmott Fellowship Class of 2025. The Carol Emmott Fellowship, a program of The Carol Emmott Foundation, accelerates the leadership capacity and national visibility of women in health.

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Cook County Health led a discussion in Spanish to reach our Spanish speaking patients on the role Hispanic culture plays in our overall health. The event earned more than 31,800 impressions and 17,000+ engagements on social media. Thank you to **Shannon Andrews, Maria Castillo, Maritza Guzman-Lauriano, Jaime Martinez, Dr. Juan Pablo Ruiz and Hilda Salgado** for a successful and insightful event!

The **Cook County Department of Public Health's "Here to Hear you" campaign** focused on raising awareness about mental health care and suicide prevention won an award of excellence at Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) Chicago Skyline Awards in the "Best Use of Broadcast/Film/Video" category. The campaign also won the Publicity Club of Chicago's Golden Trumpet Award in the video category.

Cook County Health's **ACHN primary care medical homes** earned Silver Target BP recognition from the American Medical Association and American Heart Association in recognition for their commitment to improving blood pressure control through accurate measurement in adult patients.

Activities and Announcements

The Cook County government FY2025 budget was released on October 10. Dr. Mikaitis joined Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle to highlight the key initiatives funded in the budget during a press conference and in editorial board meetings.

Cook County Health hosted a press conference to highlight the launch of the ION robotic bronchoscopy program on October 15, 2024. 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.

On October 16, Senator Dick Durbin and CountyCare held a press conference to promote CountyCare's new program to provide free lead-filtering water pitchers to all member families with children under 12, and offer other lead exposure prevention education.

Dr. Mikaitis spoke at the annual Cook County Health Foundation gala on October 17. This year's gala theme, "Building Healthy Futures", celebrated the foundation's commitment to improving health equity across Chicagoland and honors individuals who have made significant contributions to the health of our communities.

On October 23, Cook County Health joined other Cook County leaders to announce the placement of vending machines at Cook County Health facilities, as well as within Cook County Jail waiting rooms, and Cook County courthouses that will dispense naran free of charge. Three vending machines were installed in September and have already dispensed more than 750 doses.

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 October 21, CCH leadership appeared before the following Cook County Board committees to provide testimony and respond to questions from Commissioners.
 - **Asset Management Committee** – Craig Williams, CCH CAO participated in the meeting to respond to questions pertaining to the Cook County License Agreement with the Chicago Board of Education for the use of 25 parking spaces adjacent to the Belmont Cragin Health Center.
 - **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 October 2024 Monthly Report* which 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 appeared along with various members of the CCDPH team before the committee to make presentations on three CCH related matters.
 - **CCH's Semi-Annual Disparities Report (Tobacco)**
Presenters: Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck and Neela Satyanarayan, Program Coordinator, Tobacco Prevention and Control Unit
[PDF !\[\]\(c6a8736a601a632e2c96605cf66055ed_img.jpg\) CCDPH Tobacco Health Disparities Semi Annual Report July 2024 final.pdf](#)

- **CCDPH Quarterly Report / Q3 Vaccine Preventable Disease & Emergency Preparedness Unit**
 - *Presenters: Dr. Kiran Joshi, Senior Medical Officer, and Lori Katich, Assistant Director, Emergency Preparedness and Response*
 [EPRU Board Presentation Q3 2024.pdf](#)
 - **Commissioner Gordon's Syphilis Resolution**
Presenters: Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck and Tobi-Velicia Johnson, Epidemiologist, STI/HIV Program Manager
<https://docs.cookcountypublichealth.org/STIReport2023.html>
 - **Legislation & Intergovernmental Affairs Committee** – The Committee approved the appointment of Dr. Erik Mikaitis as CCH CEO including the associated compensation package. The Committee also approved the appointment of Inger Burnett-Ziegler to serve as a Director on the Cook County Health Board.
- The Cook County Board of Commissioners met on October 24, 2024. The following items were introduced and considered:
 - CCH introduced a proposed budget transfer in the amount of \$79M. This item was approved.
 - CCH introduced a *Proposed Grant Award* from EIDOS in the amount of \$560,433.00 for a research study. This item was approved.
 - CCH introduced a *Proposed Grant Award Amendment* from the Illinois Department of Public Health to increase the appropriation for the *CCDPH Genetics Education and Follow-up Program* by \$299,991.29 in FY24. This item was approved.
 - President Preckwinkle introduced the appointment of Dr. Maya Green to serve as the President's Appointee to the *Cook County Health and Hospitals Board of Directors*. This item is a direct appointment and was approved by the County Board. The previous President's Appointee to the CCH Board was Otis Story.
 - The Cook County Board re-organized their committee assignments. Commissioner Bill Lowry was voted to serve as Chair of the Cook County Board's Health and Hospitals Committee. As the committee chair, Commissioner Lowry will serve as the County Board's representative on the CCH Board of Directors.
 - The Cook County Board set the schedule for their 2025 Board Meetings.
 - Thursday, January 16, 2025
 - Thursday, February 6, 2025
 - Thursday, March 13, 2025
 - Thursday, April 10, 2025
 - Thursday, May 15, 2025
 - Thursday, June 12, 2025
 - Thursday, July 24, 2025
 - Thursday, September 18, 2025
 - Thursday, October 23, 2025
 - Thursday, November 20, 2025
 - Thursday, December 18, 2025
 - Commissioners Bridget Degnen, Alma Anaya and Anthony Quezada introduced a *Resolution to Reduce the Cook County Health Systems's Reliance on Temporary Staffing Agencies While Prioritizing Permanent Employees*. This item was referred to the Health & Hospital Committee for consideration. The Resolution calls for quarterly reports on agency utilization to the Cook County Board and semi-annual presentations to the County Board on agency utilization.

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 Senate and House Behavioral and Mental Health Committees have scheduled joint subject matter only hearings to discuss “special funding for behavioral health – cannabis revenue and opioid settlement funds” ([October 28](#)) and “administrative and funding barriers to substance use disorder, treatment, recovery, and harm reduction” ([November 7](#)). The House committee has also scheduled a subject matter only hearing for [December 10](#) to discuss “psychedelics as behavioral health treatment – HB1 and beyond”.

Federal

- Congress is in recess until November 12, 2024. Updates will be provided in the November CEO Report.

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.

- November 1 – **Near North Health’s North Kostner Health Center** – 1520 N Kostner Ave., Chicago, IL 60651
- November 2 – **Robbins Health Center** – 13450 S. Kedzie Ave Robbins, IL 60472
- November 4 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 800 S. Harlem Ave, North Riverside, IL 60546
- November 6 – **Belmont Cragin Health Center** – 5501 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago, IL 60639
- November 7 – **Friend Health** – 5635 S. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60629
- November 8 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- November 9 – **Arlington Heights Health Center** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- November 13 – **Primecare Health Center** – 5635 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60634
- November 13 – **Provident Hospital** – 500 E. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- November 14 – **Alivio Health** – 2021 S Morgan St., Chicago, IL 60608
- November 15 – **Arlington Heights Health Center** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- November 16 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 800 S. Harlem Ave, North Riverside, IL 60546
- November 18 – **Esperanza Health Center** – 4700 S. California Ave Chicago, IL 60632
- November 19 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** – 1645 S. Cottage Grove Ave Ford Heights, IL 60411
- November 20 – **Stroger Hospital** – 1969 W. Ogden, Chicago, IL 60612
- November 21 – **Friend Health** – 5635 S. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60629
- November 21 – **Care for Friends** – 5749 N. Kenmore Avenue, Chicago, IL 60660
- November 22 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621

- November 23 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** – 1645 S. Cottage Grove Ave Ford Heights, IL 60411
- November 25 – **Blue Island Health Center** – 12757 S. Western Avenue, Blue Island, IL 60406
- November 26 - **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 the Cook County Against Hate initiative. 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: 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

Provident/Sengstacke: Wednesday at 9:00 AM: 2025 Dates TBD
500 W. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60609

Cottage Grove: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: 2025 Dates TBD
1645 S. Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL 60411

Event Participation in November:

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

- 1) November 9, 2024 – Participation in the **Sisters Working It Out Annual Day of Beauty** which will take place at the Shine Bright Community Center located at 8560 S. Cottage Grove in Chicago, IL 60619.
- 2) November 9, 2024 – Participation in the **State Representatives Eva Dina Delgado and Lillian Jimenez’s 2024 Housing Education & Wellness Fair** which will take place at Steinmetz College Prep located at 3030 N Lawndale Avenue in Chicago, IL 60618.
- 3) November 9, 2024 – Participation in the **State Representative Will Guzzardi’s Fall Family Health Fair** which will take place at Kosciuszko Park located at 2732 N Avers Avenue in Chicago, IL 60647.
- 4) November 9, 2024 – Participation in **Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch’s Annual Senior & Veteran Fair** which will take place at the Proviso Math & Science Academy located at 8601 W. Roosevelt Road in Forest Park, IL 60130.
- 5) November 9, 2024 – Participation in the **Robbins Park District’s Senior/Veteran Luncheon Information and Resource Fair** which will take place at the Kellar Middle School Gymnasium located at 14123 Lydia Avenue in Robbins, IL 60472.
- 6) November 9, 2024 – Participation in **Communities United’s Gathering of Communities 2024** which will take place at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Isadore and Sadie Dorin Forum located at 1213 S. Halsted Street in Chicago, IL 60608.
- 7) November 13, 2024 – Participation in **Triton College’s WEI Power Forward Career & Resource Summit** which will take place at the college located at 2000 Fifth Avenue in River Grove, IL 60171.
- 8) November 14, 2024 – Presentation and outreach by CCH’s Endocrinology Department at the **St Bernard Hospital Diabetes Month Event** which will take place at the hospital located at 326 W 64th Street in Chicago, IL 60621.
- 9) November 15, 2024 – Participation in **Chicago Cancer Health Equity Collaborative’s 9th Annual Community Forum** which will take place at the Arturo Velazquez Institute located at 2800 S. Western Avenue in Chicago, IL 60608.
- 10) November 15, 2024 – Participation in **State Representative Thaddeus Jones’ Fall Senior Healthcare Event** which will take place at the Calumet City Library located at 660 Manistee Avenue in Calumet City, IL 60409.
- 11) November 22, 2024 – Participation in **Harper College’s Latino Summit** which will take place at the college located at 1200 W Algonquin Road in Palatine, IL 60067.

- 12) November 23, 2024 – Participation in **IL State Senator Robert Peters' 2024 South Side Thanksgiving Giveaway Event** which will take place at the 5th Ward Aldermanic Office located at 2230 E. 71st Street in Chicago, IL 60649.
- 13) November 30, 2024 – Participation in the **Chicago Defender Charities' Annual 35th Street Corridor Tree Lighting Ceremony** which will take place at the 35th Street Corridor located at 3500 S. King Drive in Chicago, IL 60653.