



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

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

Employee Recognition

John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital was named one of the "Best-in-State Hospitals" for 2024! The list, from Newsweek and Statista, was based on a nationwide, online survey of health care professionals, quality of care metrics, accreditation data and patient satisfaction data. Thanks to our patients, staff and partners who recognized the exemplary care provided at Stroger Hospital!

CCH is proud to announce the establishment of the Women Physician Forum, a dedicated platform created to support and empower women physicians. With guidance and support from executive sponsors Dr. Claudia Fegan, Chief Medical Officer and Shannon Andrews, Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer, this initiative is driven by a commitment to foster an environment of equity, collaboration and growth.

Two CCH nurse leaders were recognized at the annual Power of Nursing Leadership event hosted by the UIC College of Nursing to celebrate the impact and achievements of nurse leaders across the state of Illinois. Congratulations to **Gins Thachil**, Nurse Coordinator, on receiving a Pinnacle Leader Award, which recognizes outstanding leadership in the nursing organization. Congratulations to **Beth Vaclavik**, Associate Chief Nurse Executive, on receiving the SAGE Award. The SAGE Award spotlights a nurse leader who has demonstrated significant mentorship to advance the Illinois nurse leaders of tomorrow.

Congratulations to **Jesus "Manny" Estrada**, Chief Operating Officer, Cermak Health Services for being recognized by Crain's Chicago Business in their Notable Latino Leaders list for 2024! The list recognized more than 100 leaders making an impact in fields from health care to technology, architecture to art.

CCH CEO **Dr. Erik Mikaitis** was recognized by Crain's Chicago Business in their Notable Health Care Leaders list for 2024! The list includes 39 leaders from all facets of health care in the Chicagoland area.

CountyCare and Cook County Health recently earned multiple awards for its marketing campaigns: Five top-level Platinum MarCom Awards for the 2023-2024 CountyCare Bring on the Benefits campaign and two Pinnacle Awards of Excellence from the Illinois Society for Healthcare Marketing and Public Relations for the Bring on the Benefits campaign and the CCH brand refresh.

Activities and Announcements

Cook County Health hosted Breast Cancer Education Fairs at the Austin Health Center, Stroger and Provident Hospitals in October. The team educated 518 people on the importance of screenings.

CCH CEO Dr. Mikaitis participated in a press conference on Thursday, November 21, with President Preckwinkle and multiple Cook County Commissioners to recognize the budget amendment allocating \$2 million in CCH funding being dedicated to supporting community groups that help defray expenses for persons receiving abortion care. Details about how the funding will be awarded are in development.

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.

State

- State legislators were in Springfield for the fall legislative session last week and return this week. Legislators are also expected to return Springfield for “lame duck” session days in early 2025, prior to the swearing in of the members of the 104th General Assembly.
- All 118 members of the Illinois House and 23 of the 59 Illinois Senate seats were on the November ballot. The Democrats will hold their supermajorities in the Senate with 39 seats and in the House with 78 seats.
- No statewide constitutional officers were on the November ballot. They will be on the ballot in November 2026.
- Three non-binding statewide ballot measures were presented to voters, and all of them passed with more than 50% of the vote. They included:
 - Whether candidates who attempt to interfere with the duties of election workers should face civil penalties (88%)
 - Potential constitutional amendment that would raise taxes on income over \$1 million and use the proceeds for property tax relief (60%)
 - Whether health insurance plans should be required to cover in vitro fertilization as part of pregnancy benefits (72%)

The General Assembly will take these results into account for future policymaking.

- Earlier this month the Governor’s Office of Budget and Management (GOMB) [issued their five-year budget projections](#) and a \$3.16B deficit is expected in the next state fiscal year, which starts July 1, 2025. This is based on current program spending and projected decreases in state and federal revenues.

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.

- December 2 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 800 S. Harlem Ave, North Riverside, IL 60546
- December 3 – **Near North Health's North Kostner Health Center** – 1520 N Kostner Ave., Chicago, IL 60651
- December 5 – **Friend Health** – 5635 S. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60629
- December 6 – **Chicago Family Health Center** - 9119 S Exchange Ave Chicago, IL 60617
- December 7 – **Blue Island Health Center** – 12757 S. Western Avenue, Blue Island, IL 60406
- December 10 – **Robbins Health Center** – 13450 S. Kedzie Ave Robbins, IL 60472
- December 11 – **Provident Hospital** – 500 E. 51st Street, Chicago, IL 60615
- December 12 – **Alivio Health** – 2021 S Morgan St., Chicago, IL 60608
- December 13 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL 60621
- December 14 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** – 1645 S. Cottage Grove Ave Ford Heights, IL 60411
- December 16 – **Esperanza Health Center** – 4700 S. California Ave Chicago, IL 60632
- December 17 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** – 1645 S. Cottage Grove Ave Ford Heights, IL 60411
- December 18 – **Stroger Hospital** – 1969 W. Ogden, Chicago, IL 60612
- December 18 – **Primecare Health Center** – 5635 W. Belmont, Chicago, IL 60634
- December 19 – **Friend Health** – 5635 S. Pulaski, Chicago IL 60629
- December 20 – **Arlington Heights Health Center** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- December 21 – **North Riverside Health Center** – 800 S. Harlem Ave, North Riverside, IL 60546
- December 28 – **Arlington Heights Health Center** – 3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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:

December 4 – All Advisory Councils meeting with Dr. Erik Mikaitis

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

Blue Island: Wednesday at 1:00 PM: 2025 Dates TBD
12757 S. Western Ave., Blue Island, IL 60406

Arlington Heights: Tuesday at 1:00 PM: 2025 Dates TBD
3520 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004

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) December 1, 2024 – Participation and testing in the **World AIDS Day Community Resource Fair** which is being organized by CORE's CCHIP Initiative at the Proviso Math and Science Academy located at 8601 W. Roosevelt Road in Forest Park, IL 60130.
- 2) December 4, 2024 – Participation in the **Medicaid Enrollment & Resource Fair** which is hosted by Alliance 360 and which will take place at the Vodak-East Side Library located at 3710 E 106th Street in Chicago, IL 60517.
- 3) December 5, 2024 – Participation in the **Stone Soup Community Networking Meeting** which is hosted by Birth to Five Illinois: Region 1-B-C will take place at the Chicago Heights Park District located at 1400 Chicago Road in Chicago Heights, IL 6041.

- 4) December 11, 2024 – Participation in **Strengthening Community Connections** meeting which is hosted by Pathlights, Metropolitan Family Services and Catholic Charities and will take place at Dining On the Green located at 349 Main Street in Park Forest, IL 60466.
- 5) December 14, 2024 – Participation in the **Santa event at Re/Max Partners** which will take place at their office located at 6420 W. Cermak Road in Berwyn, IL 60402.
- 6) December 14, 2024 – Participation in the **In His Hands Resource Center Inc.'s 2nd Annual Joy Fest** which will take place at the Serbian Social Center located at 18550 Stony Island Avenue in Lansing, IL 60438.
- 7) December 14, 2024 – Participation in the **Palenque Holiday Health Fair** which is hosted by the Palenque Logan Square Neighborhood Association, Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa and Cook County Commissioner Anthony Quezada and which will take place at the Grace Church located at 3325 W Wrightwood in Chicago, IL 60647.
- 8) December 27, 2024 – Participation in **Roseland CeaseFire's Family Day Celebration** which will take place at the John D. Rita Recreation Center located at 2822 W. 141st Place in Blue Island, IL 60406.