



COOK COUNTY
HEALTH

SYSTEM NEWS

January 2024

Letter from the CEO

Dear Cook County Health friends and partners,

As we shared last month, Cook County Health is hosting our inaugural Cook County Behavioral Health Summit on Thursday, February 15 at the UIC Dorin Forum. The event will bring together clinicians, community organizations, local leaders, and others to discuss opportunities for improving and expanding access to care to resolve behavioral health inequities across the entire region.

Creating stronger systems of behavioral health care is critical to fostering better physical, mental, and social outcomes for residents across Cook County. Perspectives gathered at the summit will be instrumental in helping to develop Cook County's Behavioral Health Strategic Plan as we look to structure upcoming community-based funding opportunities from the Cook County Health Impact Fund.



We are thrilled with the response to this event: it is currently at capacity. To be added to the waitlist, please email bhsummit@cookcountyhhs.org.

This is the first of many opportunities for partnership in the behavioral health space, and we know that we are stronger together. Thank you for all your support as we collectively work to ensure equity in behavioral health care across our county.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Erik Mikaitis".

Dr. Erik Mikaitis
Interim CEO, Cook County Health



Cook County Behavioral Health Summit

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2024 | 8:30AM - 5:00PM

Please join us for the Inaugural Behavioral Health Summit for Cook County!

Thursday, February 15th, 2024 at 8:30AM - 5:00PM
UIC Dorin Forum
1213 S Halsted St, Chicago, IL 60607

Together, we will identify collective strategies and partnerships for expanding access, enhancing system quality, and addressing inequities across our region's systems of care. Perspectives gathered at the summit will be instrumental in developing a Cook County Behavioral Health Strategic Plan and for structuring upcoming community-based funding opportunities from Cook County Health's Impact Fund.

The Office of Behavioral Health at Cook County Health is committed to transforming the behavioral health ecosystem of Cook County through community partnerships, systems alignment, innovation, and equity-driven funding.

To register, visit BHSummit.rsvpify.com.

Additional questions? Please email bhsummit@cookcountyhhs.org.

The Cook County Health Impact Fund is supported by Cook County Government and the American Rescue Plan Act.



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CountyCare Access: Providing Health Benefits to Immigrant Adults & Seniors

CountyCare expects to welcome more than 40,000 new members that are part of the Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults and Seniors (HBIA/S) programs between January and April 2024 into CountyCare Access, its new program for HBIA/S enrollees.

In 2020, Illinois became the first state in the nation to provide health coverage to low-income seniors who are not U.S. citizens and were not eligible for traditional Medicaid. The program,

Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults/Seniors (HBIA/S), has grown to include immigrants ages 42 and older over the past few years. HBIA/S provides members with comprehensive coverage for medical services with benefits like Medicaid. Total membership in HBIA/S is nearly 69,000 and new enrollment is currently paused.

At the start of the year, the State of Illinois began assigning all HBIA/S members to managed care plans across the State. Most HBIA/S members in Cook County will be assigned to CountyCare.

CountyCare Access benefits include:

- Robust provider network of more than 6,600 primary care providers (PCPs), 25,000 specialists, 125 urgent care locations, and 70 hospitals
- Primary, specialty, and hospital care; rehabilitative services (PT/OT); lab tests; prescription drugs; mental health care and more
- Comprehensive pharmacy, dental, and vision benefits
- No-cost sharing or co-payments
- Care coordination
- Visa Cash Rewards when members go to the doctor for certain visits or preventive services

CountyCare is currently the only managed care plan not requiring co-pays for HBIA/S members. We believe this is the right thing to do to eliminate barriers to care for members and prioritize our commitment to health equity.

Any members or health care providers with questions regarding CountyCare Access benefits or rewards can call CountyCare Member Services at 312-864-8200, 711 (TTY/TDD) Monday-Friday: 8:00am – 6:00pm or Saturday: 9:00am–1:00pm.

To learn more about CountyCare Access, please visit: <https://countycare.com/access/>

Cook County Health Provides \$1B in Community Benefits



As an essential community asset, Cook County Health is proud to invest in the health of those whom we serve. We do this by providing free and discounted medical care, offering public health services, funding community-based resources, educating the next generation of health care providers and more. In all, Cook County Health provided \$1 billion in community benefits in 2022.

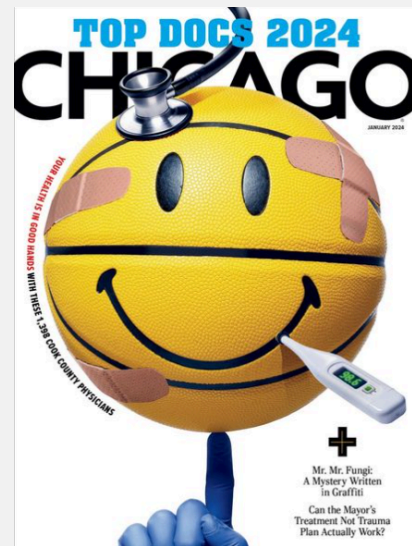
The \$1 billion investment includes the services Cook County Health provides as a health system and public health authority. Cook County Health's two hospitals provide approximately 40% of the free medical care offered by all hospitals in the county.

To learn more, visit [here](#).

Chicago Magazine Recognizes Cook County Health Physicians

Four Cook County Health physicians were named to *Chicago Magazine's* annual **Top Doctors** list. The list is made up of more than 1,300 doctors across the area who are nominated by their peers for being a top doctor in their respective field.

Congratulations to **Dr. Michael C. Giovingo** (Ophthalmology); **Dr. Elizabeth A. Marcus** (Breast Oncology Surgery); **Dr. Bosko Margeta** (Cardiology); and **Dr. Sharon Welbel** (Infectious Disease).



Cook County Health Provides Cervical Health Education to Patients, Visitors

January is Cervical Cancer Awareness Month. More than 20 percent of cervical cancers are found in women over 65, but the incidences of cervical cancer in women ages 30-44 have increased in recent years.

In recognition of Cervical Cancer Awareness Month and to provide education, Cook County Health held a Cervical Cancer Screening Education Fair, providing screening information and helping patients learn about their risk. More than 200 people stopped by the booths.

To learn more about Cook County Health's women's health services, visit [our website](#).





Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship Accreditation

The Advanced Practice Provider Fellowship at Cook County Health has been awarded accreditation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). Advanced practice provider (APP) is a term used to describe nurse practitioners and physician assistants who are professionals trained to care for patients under the supervision of a physician. APPs are licensed to provide primary and specialty care, order diagnostic tests and prescribe medication.

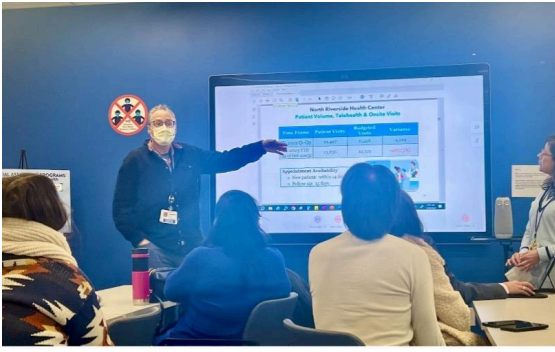
“This prestigious recognition reflects the high standards and quality of our fellowship program, affirming our dedication to delivering exceptional education and fostering the development of competent and skilled advanced practice providers and commitment to meeting national standards,” said Beena Peters, DNP, Chief Nursing Executive, CCH.

CCH’s APP fellowship is the only ANCC-accredited program in Chicago.

Cook County Health’s North Riverside Health Center Hosts Community Alliance

Earlier this month, Cook County Health hosted The Community Alliance, which represents 60 community organizations that service the western suburbs, at our North Riverside Health Center.

The event provided CCH the opportunity to highlight our health system updates as well as promote services that the clinic offers.



Upcoming COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Clinics

Cook County Department of Public Health will be holding vaccine clinics at Cook County Health community health centers in February. Flu and COVID vaccines are available to those ages 6 months and up. Protect yourself and the community during respiratory virus season.

Upcoming Community COVID-19 and Flu Vaccine Clinics

Clínicas Comunitarias de Vacunación Contra la Gripe y el COVID-19

Walk-ins welcome.

Vaccines available for ages
6 months and up.

SATURDAYS from 8AM-4PM

Se admiten visitas sin cita previa.

Vacunas disponibles para edades
de 6 meses en adelante.

SÁBADOS de 8AM-4PM

February 3rd | 3 de febrero

Arlington Heights Health Center
3250 N. Arlington Heights Rd., St. 300, Arlington Heights

February 17th | 17 de febrero

Robbins Health Center
13450 S. Kedzie Ave., Robbins

February 24th | 24 de febrero

Cottage Grove Health Center
1645 S. Cottage Grove Ave., Ford Heights

**Vaccines are free of charge.
Las vacunas son gratuitas.**

**Insurance accepted but not required.
Se acepta seguro médico en pero no es obligatorio.**

**COOK COUNTY
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Cook County DEPT.
Public Health



Awards and Recognitions

Congratulations to CCH Interim CEO, **Dr. Erik Mikaitis** for getting recognized by *Crain's Chicago Business* in their Who's Who list for 2024! The list highlights those leaders who are influential in the Chicagoland area across a variety of sectors.

The Illinois Department of Public Health has re-designated Stroger Hospital as an Adult **Level 1 Trauma Center** through 2025. Congratulations to everyone who made this possible!

Congratulations to **Gina Massuda Barnett**, Deputy Director of Public Health Programs, Cook County Department of Public Health, for getting selected for the 2024 cohort of the University of Chicago Civic Leadership Academy (CLA) based at the Center for Effective Government and the Harris School of Public Policy.

Cook County Health Hosts Blood Drive

BLOOD DRIVE



Cook County Health Blood Drive

Friday, Mar. 15
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Stroger Hospital Cafeteria
1969 W. Ogden Ave

To schedule an appointment call Vitalant at 877.258.4825 or visit vitalant.org and use group code: ORDOQ428.
Or, **SCAN QR CODE** to schedule.

Appointments Recommended.
Walk-ins Welcome.
Prepare: Eat well, hydrate, & bring ID.



**COOK COUNTY
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SCAN HERE TO SCHEDULE



Eclipse your expectations! Donate March 3-16 and receive FREE solar eclipse glasses* PLUS an exclusive T-shirt to brighten your day, both redeemable by email. Be part of the celestial celebration and save lives in style. While supplies last.

vitalant

Cook County Health in the News



Crain's Chicago Business: [Crain's Chicago Business 2024 Who's Who](#)

Huffington Post: [12 Signs Your Vision Changes Aren't A Normal Part Of Aging](#)

CBS Chicago: [Doctors say we're not in the clear from COVID, flu, RSV surge](#)

WBEZ: [Masks are back in Chicago-area health care settings](#)

Crain's Chicago Business: [Cook County Health moving immigrant health care programs to Medicaid plans](#)

Cook County Health is hiring!

To learn more about a career with CCH, [click here!](#)




Visit our website at cookcountyhealth.org

If you would like to invite a representative from CCH to attend a community event, please send an email to events@cookcountyhhs.org.

To provide feedback on CCH Community News, please email Marcelino Garcia, Director of Community Affairs, at mgarcia6@cookcountyhhs.org.

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