



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County
Minutes of the Health & Hospitals Committee**

Tuesday, October 5, 2021

12:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

ATTENDANCE

Present: Deer, Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (17)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Chairman Deer asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in accordance with Cook County Code.

No public speakers

[21-0541](#)

Sponsored by: DENNIS DEER, DONNA MILLER, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, LARRY SUFFREDIN, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI and DEBORAH SIMS, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

**SUBMITTING A PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE TO FILE #21-0541
(Health and Hospitals Committee 1/26/2021)**

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A MEETING OF THE COOK COUNTY HEALTH AND HOSPITALS COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ON THEIR COVID-19 MASS IMMUNIZATION PLANS IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID-19, a respiratory illness spread by close contact through respiratory droplets, presents a public health emergency, and the World Health Organization characterized the COVID-19 outbreak as a

pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 continues to be a serious threat across the U.S. and Cook County, and

WHEREAS, many hospitals across the U.S. already have a higher load of COVID-19 patients than ever before since the pandemic began, and the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Robert Redfield, warned last month that the next few months of the pandemic would be among “the most difficult in the public health history of this nation” and;

WHEREAS, as of January 19, 2021 there have been 194,898 confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 in Suburban Cook County under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Department of Public Health with 3,639 reported deaths; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2020, the FDA approved emergency use authorization of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine; and

WHEREAS, on December 18, 2020, the FDA authorized the emergency use of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine in individuals 18 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS, the approval has quickly ramped up the federal government’s distribution of the potentially lifesaving vaccine to 64 states, territories and major cities across the nation; and

WHEREAS, initial doses of Pfizer’s vaccine have been limited as manufacturing increases, with priority given to health-care workers and nursing homes first, but with subsequent phases the distribution will become available to a wider portion of the populace; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) is the Illinois certified local health department for suburban Cook County, Illinois, with the exception of Evanston, Skokie, Oak Park, and Stickney Township, serving 127 municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) working alongside the Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security is charged with making the COVID-19 vaccine available to people in CCDPH’s jurisdiction of suburban Cook County; and

WHEREAS, CCDPH is working with partners at all levels, including hospitals, health care providers and community leaders, to develop flexible and responsive COVID-19 vaccination programs that can accommodate different vaccines; and

WHEREAS, it is paramount that as the vaccines become more readily available we work together and take advantage of all available resources in order to effectively administer the difficult and complex task of mass immunization so that we can overcome this healthcare crisis and look towards recovery; and

WHEREAS, equally important will be to ensure the vaccines are distributed in an equitable fashion.

prioritizing those areas and residents of the county that have been most impacted by COVID-19 as a result of longstanding disparities in healthcare system access and delivery.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Health and Hospitals Committee convene a meeting to discuss the Cook County Department of Public Health's COVID-19 vaccination planning for Suburban Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Department of Public Health and any other identified Cook County entity involved in Cook County COVID-19 response will provide a monthly COVID-19 update to the Cook County Health and Hospitals Committee. This will include but not be limited to their COVID-19 vaccine plans, contract tracing plans and any other pertinent information regarding COVID-19 for Suburban Cook County.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to defer 21-0541. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Dcer, Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

Absent: Gainer (1)

21-5290

Sponsored by: DENNIS DEER, ALMA E. ANAYA, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, FRANK J. AGUILAR, LUIS ARROYO JR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

DECLARING MENTAL HEALTH A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

WHEREAS, Public Health Awareness raises awareness of the relationship between the health of individuals and the health of their communities; and

WHEREAS, mental health is a person's condition with regard to their psychological and emotional well-being; and

WHEREAS, in light of the pandemic we have seen a rise in the use of and need for mental health services across the United States; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 1 in 5 adults experience mental illness and 1 in 20 have a serious mental illness; and

WHEREAS, according to NAMI, people with serious mental illness have an increased risk for chronic disease, like diabetes or cancer, 18% of U.S. adults with mental illness also have a substance use disorder, 21% of people experiencing homelessness also have a serious mental illness. 1 in 8 of all visits to U.S. emergency departments are related to mental and substance use disorders; and

WHEREAS, Suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death of people ages 10-34 *in* the US and 46% of people who die by suicide have a diagnosed mental health condition.; and

WHEREAS, according to data collected by the Chicago Department of Public Health, in 2018, roughly 54,000 people received behavioral health treatment while in 2020 there were over 68,000 people who received behavioral health treatment, accounting for an 26% increase in comparison to individuals who have received treatment in 2018; and

WHEREAS, in 2019 Cook County Health and the Cook County Behavioral Health Consortium provided care for an average of over 8,700 patients in need of mental health services, while in the first two quarters of 2021 that number is 8,695 which is on pace for a more than 100% increase from the previous years' numbers; and

WHEREAS, according to the Cook County Medical Examiner's office there has been an average of 475 deaths per year by suicide since 2017. With roughly 329 deaths recorded for 2021, Cook County is currently on pace to reach the previous years' average; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Cook County will: led by the Cook County Board President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners (County Board), in collaboration with Cook County Health and the Cook County Department of Public Health; Declare mental health a public health crisis in Cook County and affecting our entire society; Assess internal plans, policies and procedures to ensure solutions to address the lack of awareness and the need for increased mental health services in Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Cook County, Cook County Health and Cook County Department of Public Health will work with healthcare, mental health and community based organizations to: (1) create strategies to increase awareness of mental health services (2) increase funding for mental health and behavioral health disorders through the Justice Advisory Council; (3) increase access to inpatient and outpatient mental health services (4) work with marginalized populations to provide education on mental health, issues and solutions (5) Advocate for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color, and (6) support local, State, and Federal programs that advance mental health initiatives; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, We established a line item that provides resources addressing mental health services and the lack of awareness by creating targeted campaigns of education to reduce the stigma on mental health and create a Chief of Behavioral Health for Cook County Health and the Cook County Department of Public Health; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County will encourage other local, State, and national entities to declare mental health a public health crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby supports the efforts to address public health disparities due to lack of mental health resources in Cook County.

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, that this Resolution be accept as substituted. The motion carried.

Ayes: Deer, Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (17)

A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to recommend for approval as substituted 21-5290. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Deer, Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (15)

Absent: Gainer and Morrison (2)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Ayes: Deer, Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (17)

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman



Secretary

A complete record of this meeting is available at <https://cook-county.legistar.com>.