



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

**Wednesday, February 24, 2021**

**1:00 PM**

**Virtual Meeting**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

**Absent:** Deer (1)

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

**Co-Chairman Arroyo asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in accordance with Cook County Code.**

Adrienne Alexander - AFSCME Council 31

[21-1711](#)

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 01/26/2021

**A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to approve 21-1711. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

**Absent:** Deer (1)

[21-0541](#)

**Sponsored by:** 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 Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to recommend for deferral 21-0541. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

**Absent:** Deer (1)

[21-1189](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION TO ASSESS NEEDS AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND**

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**EFFECTIVENESS OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDED BY COOK COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

**WHEREAS**, The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) defines behavioral health as the promotion of mental health, emotional, psychological and social wellbeing and resilience; the treatment of mental and substance use disorders; and the support of those who experience and/or are in recovery from these conditions, along with their families and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, The Illinois Department of Public Health’s Illinois Healthcare Report Card has reported that between 2016-2018, residents of Cook County had an average of 3.56 mentally unhealthy days per month; and

**WHEREAS**, an Illinois Department of Public Health report from 2015 identified that behavioral health visits to Illinois emergency departments (ED) were growing faster than any other category of care offered through Illinois EDs; and

**WHEREAS**, the same report showed a health disparity in which African Americans face a greater risk of relying on emergency departments to access behavioral health care, with 1.67 times more visits than whites; and

**WHEREAS**, according to a 2016 survey of behavioral health facilities conducted by the Chicago Department of Public Health 79% of publicly available behavioral health agencies reported unmet mental health needs and 61% reported unmet substance-use related needs; and

**WHEREAS**, a 2019 report from the Alliance for Health Equity identified “quality” as the greatest overarching need for behavioral health services in Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, lack of mental health and behavioral services along with other community support are a major concern for recidivism in people either released from the County Jail or on Electronic monitoring; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County Government has typically allocated funding for behavioral health services; and funding is allocated for these programs; and

**WHEREAS**, access to mental health service and equity is highly disparate in underserved communities; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no regular documentation nor oversight mechanism to evaluate the number of people served, any overlap in patients and communities served, or the impact and efficacy of all the disparate County-wide services provided; and

**WHEREAS**, an assessment of the behavioral health work conducted by Cook County can help Cook County Government identify best practices, needs, and priority areas to grow behavioral health care.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Cook County entities, departments, agencies or offices that conduct behavioral health services submit to the Health and Hospitals Committee of the Cook County Board a quarterly report with details of their services during a public hearing of the Committee. Those entities, departments, agencies, or offices should include but not be limited to:

- a. The Cook County Health and Hospitals System;
- b. The Cook County Department of Public Health;
- c. Cermak Health Services of Cook County;
- d. The Cook County Department of Veteran Affairs;
- e. The Cook County Sheriff;
- f. Juvenile Temporary Detention Center;
- g. The Cook County State’s Attorney;
- h. The Office of the Chief Judge of Cook County;
- i. The Cook County Public Defender;

**FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED**, that the reports shall include the following information, as applicable to each entity, on behavioral health initiatives, programs, and activities:

- a. general information on the population served, including a breakdown of where patients of the program reside in Cook County and the number of patients served over the last 24 month cycle; and
- b. overall goals of behavioral health program;
- c. information on the providers, managers, and/or operators of the behavioral health care program, activity or service;
- d. key performance indicators measuring the results of the program;
- e. quality measures or expectations for contracts involved in the program, where applicable;
- f. information on how the care being provided in this program serves the best interests of the patient/recipient of care;
- g. information on how the continuum of care may be addressed through this program;
- h. information on the best practices in this type of programming;
- i. information on external partners working with the County entity or entities on this program, where applicable;
- j. an evaluation of the impact of the program and an overview of its effectiveness, particularly as it pertains to vulnerable populations, racial and ethnic minorities; and populations facing disparities in behavioral health outcomes, behavioral health care, and behavioral healthcare access;
- k. information with the costs associated with the program(s) and funding source(s);
- l. any additional information which may facilitate the Committee’s understanding of the program, initiative, or activity;
- m. any additional information which may foster a more accurate assessment of behavioral health care needs and opportunities for collaboration or growth within the Cook County Government entity’s behavioral health care programs; and
- n. any additional information if patients receive follow up care at a Cook County hospital including

medication management as a part of aftercare.

**Effective Date:** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption. The first quarterly reports from the appropriate entities shall be submitted to the Health & Hospitals Committee no later than June 2021.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Anaya, seconded by Commissioner K. Morrison, to recommend for approval 21-1189. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

**Absent:** Deer (1)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Anaya, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

**Absent:** Deer (1)

Respectfully submitted,



Co-Chairman



Secretary

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