



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County**

**Health & Hospitals Committee**

**Tuesday, June 27, 2023**

**1:00 PM**

**Cook County Building, Board Room,  
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

**Public Hearing**

**NOTICE AND AGENDA**

**PUBLIC HEARING**

There will be a meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee of the Board of Commissioners of Cook County at the date, time and location listed above to consider the following:

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

Authorization as a public speaker shall only be granted to those individuals who have registered to speak, with the Secretary, 24 hours in advance of the meeting. To register as a public speaker, go to the meeting details page for this meeting at <https://cook-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> to find a registration link. Duly authorized public speakers may speak live from the County Board Room at 118 N. Clark Street, 5th Floor, Chicago, IL or be sent a link to virtually attend the meeting and will be called upon to deliver testimony at a time specified in the meeting agenda. Authorized public speakers who are not present during the specified time for public testimony will forfeit their allotted time to speak at the meeting. Public testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. After each speaker has completed their statement, they will be removed from the meeting. Once removed, you will still be able to follow the proceedings for that day at:

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings> or in a viewing area at 69 W. Washington Street, 22nd Floor Conference Room F, Chicago, IL. Persons authorized to provide public testimony shall not use vulgar, abusive, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately; failure to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting, or failure to adhere to the time requirements may result in expulsion from the meeting and/or disqualify the person from providing future testimony. Written comments will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be posted on the meeting page and made a part of the meeting record.

[23-2260](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, ALMA E. ANAYA, JOHN P. DALEY, DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET DEGNEN and BRIDGET GAINER, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**CALLING FOR A HEARING OF THE HEALTH AND HOSPITALS COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE MATERNAL HEALTH MORBIDITY AND MORTALITY RATES IN COOK**

**COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, each year in the U.S., hundreds of women die from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth, known as maternal death; and

**WHEREAS**, a maternal death is defined by the World Health Organization (WHO) as “the death of a woman while pregnant or within 42 days of termination of pregnancy, irrespective of the duration and the site of the pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated by the pregnancy or its management, but not from accidental or incidental causes; and

**WHEREAS**, last year the United States Government Accountability Office undertook an analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) data due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which presented challenges for maternal health, as pregnant women with COVID-19 are more likely to experience pregnancy complications, severe illness, or death; and

**WHEREAS**, CDC data shows that maternal deaths increased during the COVID-19 pandemic and COVID-19 was a contributing factor in one quarter of all maternal deaths in 2020 and 2021 combined; and

**WHEREAS**, Health and Human Services officials and stakeholders said the pandemic worsened factors contributing to maternal health disparities, like access to care, cardiovascular problems and other underlying conditions, which contributed to a 78% rise in maternal mortality rates in the U.S. between 2000-2020 according to the WHO; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2021, the U.S. had one of the worst rates of maternal mortality in the country's history going back to 1965. 1,205 people died of maternal causes in the U.S. in 2021, which represents a 40% increase from the previous year, and the U.S. rate for 2021 was 32.9 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, which is more than ten times the estimated rates of some other high-income countries, including Australia, Austria, Israel, Japan and Spain which all reported between 2 and 3 deaths per 100,000 in 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the CDC, cardiovascular conditions such as pulmonary embolisms, uncontrolled bleeding and problems emanating from hypertension are the leading cause of pregnancy-related deaths in the U.S. and sadly most maternal deaths are preventable, as the health-care solutions to prevent or manage complications are well known; and

**WHEREAS**, the maternal death rate for Black or African American women was 44.0 per 100,000 live births in 2019, then increased to 55.3 in 2020, and 68.9 in 2021. In contrast, White (not Hispanic or Latina) women had death rates of 17.9, 19.1, and 26.1, respectively; and

**WHEREAS**, the maternal death rate for Hispanic or Latina women was lower 12.6 per 100,000 live births compared with White (not Hispanic or Latina) women 17.9 in 2019, but increased significantly during the pandemic in 2020 to 18.2 and in 2021 to 27.5; and

**WHEREAS**, Illinois has maternal death statistics even higher than the national average with Black women in Illinois six times as likely to die of a pregnancy-related condition than white women; and

**WHEREAS**, disparities in other adverse maternal outcomes, such as preterm and low birthweight births and severe maternal morbidity, which represents a group of potentially life-threatening unexpected maternal conditions or complications that occur during labor and delivery that may cause long-lasting health problems that extend beyond the pregnancy, persisted for Black or African American women; and

**WHEREAS**, well before the Covid-19 pandemic, the Illinois Maternal Morbidity and Mortality Report 2016-2017 released in 2021 documented Illinois’s severe maternal morbidity rate for 2016-2017 was 75.4 per 10,000 deliveries or about 1 in 150 women who delivered a baby experienced a severe maternal morbidity, and Black women had the highest rate of severe maternal morbidity in Illinois during that time frame with a rate of 132.4 per 10,000 deliveries, which was more than two times as high as the rate for White women. Hispanic and Other race women had rates of severe maternal morbidity that were approximately 20% higher than White women; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County Health (CCH) and the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) have been actively studying and trying to improve maternal morbidity and mortality rates and the health disparities that contribute to adverse pregnancy outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing of the Health & Hospitals Committee is the ideal platform to bring together stakeholders from CCH, CCDPH and other healthcare providers to address these matters and discuss solutions to improve maternal morbidity and mortality rates in Cook County;

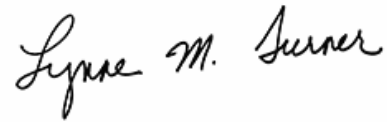
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request a public hearing be held to bring together key maternal health stakeholders in order to fully understand the factors leading to high maternal morbidity and mortality rates; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that representatives from Cook County Health, the Cook County Department of Public Health, the Illinois Department of Public Health, outside healthcare providers and any other pertinent stakeholder representatives appear before the Health & Hospitals Committee and be prepared to give an overview to the committee and answer questions related to maternal health overall as well as disparities in maternal morbidity and mortality rates in Cook County; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that each stakeholder be prepared to provide data on such rates and the factors that have contributed to them; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that each stakeholder be prepared to provide short and long-term recommendations to prevent pregnancy related deaths and improve maternal morbidity and mortality rates in Cook County.

**Legislative History :** 4/27/23 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Health & Hospitals Committee



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Secretary

Chair: Deer

Vice-Chair: Anaya

Members: Committee of the Whole