



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

**12:00 PM**

**Tuesday, January 24, 2023**

**Cook County Building, Board Room, 118  
North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois  
(Board Room Closed to Public Meeting  
Virtual for Public)**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Anaya, Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Johnson, Lowry, Miller,  
K. Morrison, S. Morrison and Quezada (13)

**Absent:** Deer, Moore, Morita and Trevor (4) excused

A motion was made by Commissioner Lowry, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, to allow for remote participation. The motion carried by the following vote:

**allow for remote participation in meeting**

**Ayes:** Anaya, Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Johnson, Lowry, Miller,  
K. Morrison, S. Morrison and Quezada (13)

**Absent:** Deer, Moore, Morita and Trevor (4) excused

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

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

1. Joy Bunton People's Response Network

**231073**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 11/15/2022

**A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve 231073. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Anaya, Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Johnson, Lowry, Miller,  
K. Morrison, S. Morrison and Quezada (13)

**Absent:** Deer, Moore, Morita and Trevor (4) excused

230469

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER and DENNIS DEER, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**REQUESTING A MEETING OF THE COOK COUNTY HEALTH AND HOSPITALS COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM COOK COUNTY HEALTH AND THE COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ON THEIR COVID19 IMMUNIZATION and MITIGATION PLANS IN SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, on January 27, 2020, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services declared that COVID19, a respiratory illness spread by close contact through respiratory droplets, presents a public health emergency, and the World Health Organization characterized the COVID19 outbreak as a pandemic on March 11, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, despite advances in treatment protocols and the availability of vaccines, COVID19 continues to be a serious threat across the U.S. and Cook County, and;

**WHEREAS**, recently Chicago and Cook County have seen an uptick in COVID19 cases prompting a medium risk level designation of community spread, and;

**WHEREAS**, as of November 30, 2022, there have been 655,646 confirmed cases of SARSCoV2 in Suburban Cook County under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Department of Public Health with 7,309 reported deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, on August 31, 2022, the FDA amended the emergency use authorizations (EUAs) of the Moderna COVID19 Vaccine and the PfizerBioNTech COVID19 Vaccine to authorize bivalent formulations of the vaccines (in individuals in individuals 18 years of age and older for Moderna and 12 years of age and older for PfizerBioNTech) for use as a single booster dose at least two months following primary OR at least two months following monovalent booster vaccination; and

**WHEREAS**, the FDA has also revised the EUA of the Moderna COVID19 Vaccine and the PfizerBioNTech COVID19 Vaccine to remove the use of the monovalent Moderna and PfizerBioNTech COVID19 vaccines for booster administration for individuals 18 years of age and older and 12 years of age and older, respectively; however, they continue to be authorized for use for administration of a primary series for individuals 6 months of age and up; and

**WHEREAS**, the Novavax COVID19 vaccine is currently approved for individuals 12 and up; and

**WHEREAS**, the everchanging nature of this virus has necessitated routine updates for the benefit of Commissioners and the public to stay abreast of the latest mitigation and vaccine protocols, proving essential to combatting the pandemic and to building back better; 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 COVID19 vaccines available to people in CCDPH's jurisdiction of suburban Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, CCDPH is continuing to work with partners at all levels, including hospitals, health care providers and community leaders, to develop flexible and responsive COVID19 vaccination programs that can accommodate different vaccines and increase uptake of boosters by informing the public and advertising about the vaccines importance with the Boost Up Cook County COVID and flu vaccination campaign, which is particularly important due to the possibility of a 'Tripledemic' of COVID, Flu and RSV this winter; and

**WHEREAS**, equally important has been to ensure the vaccines are distributed in an equitable fashion, prioritizing those areas and residents of the county that have been most impacted by COVID19 as a result of longstanding disparities in healthcare system access and delivery; and

**WHEREAS**, as of November 30, 2022, CCH and CCDPH have administered 1,625,108 million complete vaccine series to suburban residents or 71% of the total population; however, only 14.8% of the population is up to date on recommended vaccines to include boosters.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Health and Hospitals Committee convene a monthly meeting to discuss the Cook County Department of Public Health's COVID19 mitigation and vaccination efforts 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's COVID19 response will provide a monthly COVID19 update to the Cook County Health and Hospitals Committee. This will include but not be limited to their COVID19 vaccine plans, contract tracing and mitigation plans and any other pertinent information regarding COVID19 or other infectious diseases of concern for Suburban Cook County including analyses of the latest data on age, geographic, racial, and other pertinent category impacts.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Quezada, to recommend for deferral 230469. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Anaya, Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison and Quezada (13)

**Absent:** Deer, Moore, Morita and Trevor (4) excused

**230555**

**Presented by:** ISRAEL ROCHA JR., Chief Executive Officer, Cook County Health & Hospitals System

**REPORT**

**Department:** Cook County Department of Public Health

**Report Title:** Health Disparities Semiannual Report

**Report Period:** 7/2212/22

**Summary:** This semiannual report is to comply with Resolution 221703 for CCDPH and CCH to appear before the Health and Hospital Committee to provide periodic updates on healthcare disparities and the solutions to address them as outlined in the CCDPH We Plan 2025 and the CCH and CCDPH Strategic plans.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Degnen, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve 230555. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Anaya, Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison and Quezada (13)

**Absent:** Deer, Moore, Morita and Trevor (4) excused

**230523**

**Sponsored by:** ALMA E. ANAYA, DENNIS DEER, BRANDON JOHNSON, KEVIN B. MORRISON, FRANK J. AGUILAR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA, SEAN M. MORRISON, DONNA MILLER, BILL LOWRY, MONICA GORDON, BRIDGET GAINER, BRIDGET DEGNEN and JOHN P. DALEY, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION TO ASSESS NEEDS AND IMPROVE THE QUALITY AND 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**, 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 Illinois Department of Public Health's Illinois Healthcare Report Card of 2018 has reported that residents of Cook County had an average of 4.1 mentally unhealthy days per month; 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 substanceuse 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**, in the middle of the COVID19 pandemic 31.3% of adults in Illinois reported symptoms of anxiety and/or depressive disorder, compared to 31.6% of adults in the U.S; and

**WHEREAS**, according to Children's Hospital of Chicago, 44% of Chicago children experienced an increase in at least one mental or behavioral health system during the pandemic compared with before the pandemic; 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 Countywide 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 shall submit two (2) reports yearly to the Health and Hospitals Committee of the Cook County Board 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. Juvenile Temporary Detention Center;
- e. The Cook County Sheriff;
- f. The Cook County State's Attorney;
- g. The Office of the Chief Judge of Cook County; and
- h. 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. data on the population served, including a breakdown of where patients of the program reside in Cook County and the number of patients served;
- b. overall goals of behavioral health program and information on the best practices in this type of programming;
- c. information on the providers, managers, operators, and/or contractual personnel of the behavioral health care program, activity or service, and any information on external partners working with your agency on this program;
- d. key performance indicators that are used to measure the results of the program;
- e. quality measures or expectations for contracts involved in the program; and
- f. information on how the care provided in this program serves the best interests of the patient/recipient of care;
- g. information on the participant's continuum of care plan and whether the participant has received follow up care at a Cook County hospital including medication management as a part of aftercare.
- h. 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;

- i. information with the costs associated with the program(s) and funding source(s);
- j. any additional information which may facilitate the Committee's understanding of the program, initiative, or activity; and
- k. 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's efforts around behavioral health care programs.

**Effective Date:** This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption. The reporting schedule shall be as follows: The first biyearly reports shall be submitted to the Cook County Board by the June Board Meeting Agenda deadline and shall be heard before the Health & Hospitals Committee no later than July of that year. The second set of reports shall be submitted to the Board in November and heard before the committee in December.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Degnen, to recommend for deferral 230523. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Anaya, Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, K. Morrison, S. Morrison and Quezada (13)

**Absent:** Deer, Moore, Morita and Trevor (4) excused

#### ADJOURNMENT

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

**Ayes:** Anaya, Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Gordon, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Morrison, Morrison and Quezada (13)

**Absent:** Deer, Moore, Morita and Trevor (4) excused

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Secretary

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