



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

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

12:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

ATTENDANCE

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

Absent: Moore (1) - 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. Garley Briggs - GiGi Tonye' Arts and Fitness
2. Joel Johnson - TASK

[21-3078](#)

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 04/13/2021

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve 21-3078. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Moore (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 Miller, seconded by Vice Chairman Arroyo, to defer 21-0541. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Moore (1)

A motion was made by Commissioner Silvestri, seconded by Vice Chairman Arroyo, to suspend the rules to accept supplemental agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Moore (1)

[21-2664](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

DECLARING GUN VIOLENCE AS 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, there has been an increase in gun related violence in Cook County compared to the decrease in numbers over the past five years; and

WHEREAS, The City of Chicago has seen a sharp increase in gun violence in 2020 compared to previous years. In 2020 3,893 shootings were reported, compared to just 2,536 in 2019; and

WHEREAS, As of April 1, 2021, 703 people have been injured by a gun shot in Chicago, IL surpassing the total 2020 number by 183 cases; and

WHEREAS, The Cook County Medical Examiner’s Office confirmed 875 gun-related homicides in 2020, breaking the previous record of 838 set in 1994 and;

WHEREAS, The Medical Examiner’s office handled 970 homicides in 2020. Which was a more than 40 percent increase over 2019’s total of 675; and

WHEREAS, African Americans were the victims of 78 percent of homicides and Latinos accounted for more than 16 percent of homicide deaths. Eighty-nine percent of homicide deaths were male. Seventy homicide deaths were under 18; 22 were under the age of 10. The majority (722) of homicides were in the City of Chicago. The last time Cook County saw more than 970 homicides was in 1996; and

WHEREAS, Cook County Health provides care for over 1,100 patients with gunshot wounds every year through Stroger Hospital, accounting for 20% of the patients that get treatment through the Comprehensive Trauma Unit. Costing the health systems anywhere between 30-40 million dollars a year; 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 the Cook County Sheriff's Department and other relevant parties; Assert gun violence as a public health crisis affecting our entire society; Assess internal policies and procedures to ensure solutions to gun violence as a core goal of Cook County; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County will work with community organizations identifying specific activities to: (1) decrease gun violence among the youth (2) increase funding to the Justice Advisory Council programs specific to reduce gun-violence; (3) Work closely with Sheriff and local law enforcement agencies to create strategies to reduce the amount of illegal firearms in Cook County (4) work with marginalized populations to provide education on gun violence, issues and solutions(5) Advocate for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color, (6) support local, State, and Federal programs that advance anti-gun violence initiatives, and (7) and actively work towards reducing the 30-40 million dollars spent each year at Cook County Health on trauma from gun violence by creating a budget line item specifically used for gun violence prevention an intervention; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County will encourage other local, State, and national entities to recognize gun violence as a public health crisis; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County Board hereby supports the efforts to address public health disparities due to gun violence throughout Cook County.

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to recommed for approval 21-2664. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Moore (1)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairman Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

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

Absent: Moore (1)

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Deer

Chairman

Matthew B. DeLeon

Secretary

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