



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

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

9:15 AM

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

Reconvened from 11/18/2025 - Issued on: 11/18/2025

ATTENDANCE

Present: Lowry, Anaya, Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Degnen, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Scott, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (16)

Absent: Gainer (1)

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to allow for remote participation in meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Lowry, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (11)

Absent: Aguilar, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, S. Morrison and Scott (6)

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

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

1) Jessica Jackson - Concerned Citizen

2) Rayskae Roundtree - Concerned Citizen

3) George Blakemore - Concerned Citizen

[25-4433](#)

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 10/22/2025

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 25-4433. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Lowry, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (11)

Absent: Aguilar, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, S. Morrison and Scott (6)

[23-0202](#)

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

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION REQUESTING A HEARING OF THE HEALTH AND HOSPITALS COMMITTEE FOR A REPORT FROM THE SENIOR STAFF OF COOK COUNTY HEALTH & HOSPITAL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Cook County Health and Hospital System (CCHHS) is the largest provider of healthcare services in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the County through CountyCare, a no-cost Illinois Medicaid managed care health plan, provides health insurance to thousands of Cook County residents; and

WHEREAS, the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, in recommending and approving the annual appropriation bill, has invested in many programs to protect the health and well-being of persons in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2010, the Cook County Board of Commissioners voted to make permanent the independent Board of Directors overseeing the Cook County Health and Hospitals System; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners retains oversight authority over the hospital system through passage of the budget for CCHHS, as well as appointment authority over directors appointed to the Board of Directors.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that a meeting of the Health and Hospitals Committee be convened to discuss the operations of the Cook County Health and Hospital System.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the senior staff of the Cook County Health and Hospital System appear before the Committee and be prepared to update the Committee on the CCHHS's services and operations.

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Stamps, to defer 23-0202. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Lowry, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (11)

Absent: Aguilar, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, S. Morrison and Scott (6)

[25-4222](#)

Sponsored by: ALMA E. ANAYA, FRANK J. AGUILAR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, 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 well-being 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 National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Illinois released a 2021 fact sheet indicating that 38.5% of adults in Illinois reported symptoms of anxiety or depression; and

WHEREAS, that same fact sheet reported that 1 in 4 people with a serious mental illness has been arrested by the police at some point in their lifetime; 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 COVID-19 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, on February 09, 2023, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved item #23-0523, a resolution to assess needs and improve the quality and effectiveness of behavioral health care provided by Cook County; and

WHEREAS, Cook County agencies that conduct behavioral health services submit two (2) reports yearly to the Health and Hospitals Committee of the Cook County Board; and

WHEREAS, reports of the behavioral health work conducted by Cook County has helped Cook County Government identify best practices, needs, and priority areas to grow behavioral health care; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners now seeks to update resolution #23-0523 by updating reporting requirements.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Cook County entities, departments, agencies or offices that conduct behavioral health services shall submit one (1) report 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, which will include one report on the Cook County Health and Hospital System, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH), Cermak Health Services of Cook County (Correctional Health), and Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (Correctional Health);
- b) The Cook County Sheriff;
- c) The Cook County State's Attorney;
- d) The Cook County Public Defender; and
- e) The Office of the Chief Judge of Cook County.

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 yearly population served, including a breakdown of where patients of the program reside in Cook County and the total year-to-date number of patients served;
- b) Overall goals of the behavioral health program(s) 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) Information on how the care provided in this program serves the best interests of the patient/recipient of care;

- f) Information on the participant's continuum of care plan and whether the participant has received follow-up care at a Cook County hospital(s) or clinic(s) including medication management as a part of aftercare;
- g) 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;
- h) Information with the costs associated with the program(s) and funding source(s);
- i) Any additional information which may facilitate the Committee's understanding of the program, initiative, or activity; and
- j) 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.

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, each agency will present a short presentation before the Health & Hospitals Committee summarizing the following information from their reports:

- a) Name and general description of each behavioral health program(s);
- b) The cost associated with the program(s) and funding source(s) for each program;
- c) A short description of the impact of the program, particularly as it pertains to vulnerable populations;
- d) A short description of how your program intersects with the broader behavioral health landscape of Cook County.

Effective Date: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption. The reporting schedule shall be as follows: The yearly report from the Cook County Health and Hospital System (CCH), the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH), Cermak Health Services of Cook County (Correctional Health), and Juvenile Temporary Detention Center (Correctional Health) shall be submitted to the Cook County Board by the June Board Meeting Agenda deadline and shall be heard before the Health & Hospitals Committee in July of each year. The yearly report from the Cook County Sheriff, the Cook County State's Attorney, the Cook County Public Defender, and the Office of the Chief Judge of Cook County, shall be submitted to the Cook County Board by the July Board Meeting Agenda deadline and shall be heard before the Health & Hospitals Committee in September of each year.

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Stamps, to accept as substituted 25-4222. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Lowry, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (11)

Absent: Aguilar, Gainer, McCaskill, Miller, S. Morrison and Scott (6)

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to recommend for approval as substituted 25-4222. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Lowry, Anaya, Aguilar, Britton, Daley, Degnen, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Trevor and Vásquez (14)

Absent: Gainer, Scott and Stamps (3)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:

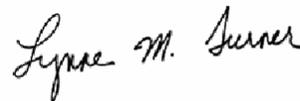
Ayes: Lowry, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

Absent: Aguilar, Gainer, Scott and Stamps (4)

Respectfully submitted,

Bill 

Chairman



Secretary

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