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**Cook County Health
&
Cook County Department of Public Health**

**Anti-Violence Report
to the
Cook County Board
Health & Hospitals and Criminal Justice
Joint Committee**

January 2022

Questions 1 & 2

What your respective department did previously to address violence and crime in Cook County?

What does your respective department do to address violence and crime, specifically the recent surges in gun-related violence and carjackings in Cook County?

- Cook County Health provides care to all and has a long history of being the health care provider for vulnerable populations. In addition to our hospitals and community health centers, we also provide correctional health services for detainees at the Cook County Jail and Cook County Juvenile Temporary Detention Center; this business unit is also referred to as Cermak Health Services.
 - Cermak provides a full screening upon admission to the jail, and Cermak provides primary, mental health, dental, specialty care, and pharmacological services to its patients.
 - Cermak Health Services remains a very high priority for CCH when it comes to COVID mitigation. As a congregate setting, strict testing and quarantine protocols are in place to identify and control the spread of COVID.
 - The rise in community positivity rates resulting from the COVID surge that we are currently experiencing has contributed to increased positive cases in the jail with the need to further quarantine detainees, which has also contributed to staffing challenges.
 - We are grateful that as of early 2021, we have been able to administer vaccines to Cermak detainees, which has helped with mitigation efforts in the Jail and the community. More than 11,600 doses of COVID-19 vaccine have been administered to Cermak patients since February 2021.
 - We also facilitate enrollment into Medicaid as part of the detainee intake process at Cermak, so eligible individuals can leave the jail with Medicaid coverage and access necessary health care in the community.

- Cook County Health's Stroger Hospital operates one of the nation's busiest Level I trauma centers, providing comprehensive trauma services to individuals who experience serious injuries including victims of gun violence.
 - More than 5,000 patients are seen each year in the trauma department, including a number of gun shot victims.
 - Due to the large volume of penetrating injuries treated at Stroger Hospital, teams of US Navy corpsmen rotate through the trauma unit to hone their medical skills for deployment.
 - Hospital-based violence prevention programs
 - Healing Hurt People – Chicago (HHP-C) – seeks to provide violently-injured youth support and address the psychological trauma that drives the cycle of violence. HHP-C trauma intervention specialists provide psychoeducation and support services to injured youth and their families, including assessing safety and other basic needs to

reduce high-risk behaviors, help patients stay safe, and create futures for themselves.

- HHP-C works with patients, aged 30 and younger, who are facing injuries from community violence, with the goal of reducing re-injury, retaliation, and criminal justice involvement.
- Long-term therapeutic engagement with Trauma Intervention Specialists offer intensive case management, individual and group engagement using a trauma-informed approach
 - We also partner with Acclivus.
- Stop the Bleed Training
 - A training course for members of the public that provides basic skills in assisting victims of mass casualty, shootings, and other traumatic events prior to the arrival of a first responder. Participants are taught the basics of how to control life-threatening bleeding, including tourniquet application.
 - Community trainings in Fall 2019 resulted in 45 community members receiving training.
- Chicago Hospital Engagement Action and Leadership (HEAL) initiative
 - An effort initiated by Senator Durbin that engages 10 hospitals and health systems to strengthen neighborhood engagement to reduce violence and improve health with efforts focused on the South and West sides of Chicago.
 - Collective goals include local hiring and procurement, strengthening partnerships to address social risk factors, and creating and supporting job training and mentorship programs.
 - CCH highlighted our efforts to address housing insecurity at a roundtable discussion with Senator Durbin in 2019.
- Advocating for Medicaid coverage for justice-involved populations, including those in a pretrial or prerelease status at the local or state level. This can help maintain continuity of care, particularly for individuals who have a chronic condition, a substance use disorder or other behavioral health needs.

Question 3

How has your respective department previously collaborated with other County offices? And does it continue its collaboration?

- Cook County Health is a stakeholder in the Safety and Justice Challenge, an initiative supported by the MacArthur Foundation that seeks to reimagine and rebuild local criminal justice systems. We participate in several SJC committees, alongside our intra-county partners at the Justice Advisory Council, Office of the Chief Judge, Public Defender, State's Attorney, and Sheriff. This work is ongoing and will enter a new phase to prepare for implementation of various provisions of the criminal

justice reform legislation that was passed by the Illinois General Assembly and signed by the Governor last year.

- CCH works closely with the Justice Advisory Council and other system and community partners to consider coordinated service strategies and policies that address violence and crime from a public health lens with a focus on addressing social determinants of health as well as community and individual trauma as a way to reduce involvement in the justice system and support safe and thriving communities.
- We also regularly interact with our justice-partners to share information about resources and coordinate when possible to meet the health care and/or social needs of Cook County residents.

Question 4

What resources do you need to assist in combating the surge in violence crime and to support your continued efforts?

- We thank the County Commissioners for your support of health system operations and budget, especially as we continue to deal with COVID including the current surge drive by the Omicron variant.
- We thank the President's Office and the Commissioners for their support of our ARPA proposals that will expand CCH's ability to meet the behavioral health needs of our patients and Cook County residents.
 - Near-term goals include adding one additional licensed clinical social worker to each of our outpatient community health center locations, for a total of 13 new social workers, as well as expanding the hours of operation for behavioral health services at two of our current locations to include evening hours.
 - We also intend to use funds to establish a new Mental Health Office within CCH to support our goals of providing mental health and substance use services, treatment, and prevention programs in priority communities across all of Cook County. CCDPH is also funded for programming in suburban Cook County focused on the following areas: suicide prevention (including school-based screening), counseling and treatment, supportive services, behavioral health workforce development, and youth-focused programs.
- CCH is also a partner in two healthcare transformation collaboratives, a new program through the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, that seeks to address health disparities in Medicaid through innovative partnerships.
 - The [West Side Health Equity Collaborative](#) seeks to increase convenient access to culturally responsive healthcare, supporting the unique and changing socio-economic needs of individuals and families. The lead agency is ACCESS Community Health Network and other participating entities include: Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital, Bobby E. Wright Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center, Inc., Habilitative Systems, Inc., Humboldt Park Health, the Loretto Hospital, Medical Home Network, Rush University Medical Center, Sinai Chicago, and West Side United.

- [Prison Emergency Early Release Response Network](#) is a model approach to care coordination and social determinants of health for men and women released from incarceration returning to Cook County. The lead agency is the Safer Foundation and other participating entities include: Heartland Alliance Health, Healthcare Alternatives Systems, Inc. (HAS), KAM Alliance, Transforming Reentry Services/MWPM, Get to Work Illinois, Smart Policy Works, and Legal Council for Health Justice.
- CCH is also honored to receive a grant from the Pritzker Foundation, which will support our housing efforts that have focused on linkages to stable, safe housing for persistent high utilizers of CCH's emergency department and correctional health services and who are also housing insecure.

Cook County Health Trauma-Informed Task Force

- The Cook County Health Trauma-Informed Task Force was identified as a priority in the 2020 Cook County Health Strategic Plan. CCDPH was asked to research best practices and convene a Task Force.
- Starting in February 2019, a series of four in-person meetings were held with representation from across the health system. Based on the input from those discussions, the Task Force drafted a report with recommendations for executive leadership at Cook County Health on approaches for instituting trauma-informed care.
- Since the report was issued, there have been three major accomplishments of the group:
 - First, Task Force members presented about the principles of trauma-informed care at a leadership retreat for the ambulatory health care network (AHCN) in February 2020. The response was overwhelming positive, and AHCN leadership encouraged their managers to work with their staff to develop and follow up on their own self-care goals. AHCN leadership also instituted a self-care check-in as a topic during regular rounds at the clinics.
 - Second, a Task Force committee dedicated to developing a training for CCH staff reviewed existing trauma trainings, identified a training series, and trained over 300 CCH staff in a trauma 101 training. The training explains the basic science of Adverse Childhood Experiences, and how social and emotional trauma in children can impact health and behavior as adults. About 25 CCH staff members have also been trained to facilitate the Trauma 101 trainings.
 - Third, the Task Force has developed resources on self-care and best practices for creating a trauma-informed organization