



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County**

**Health & Hospitals Committee**

**Tuesday, October 22, 2024**

**1:00 PM**

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

**Issued on 10/16/24**

**NOTICE AND AGENDA**

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 virtual 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.

**24-5833**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 09/17/2024.

[24-4173](#)

**Presented by:** ERIK MIKAITIS, M.D., Interim Chief Executive Officer, Cook County Health and Hospitals Systems

**REPORT**

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

**Report Title:** Health Disparities Semi-Annual Report

**Report Period:** January 2024 - July 2024

**Summary:** This semi-annual report is submitted to comply with Resolution 22-1703 for CCH and CCDPH to appear before the Health and Hospitals Committee to provide periodic updates on healthcare disparities.

**Legislative History :** 7/25/24 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Health & Hospitals Committee

[24-1436](#)

**Presented by:** ERIK MIKAITIS, M.D., Interim Chief Executive Officer, Cook County Health and Hospitals Systems

**REPORT**

**Department:** Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH)

**Report Title:** CCDPH Quarter 3 Report

**Report Period:** Q 3 2024

**Summary:** Community Immunization and Emergency Preparedness and Response

**Legislative History :** 7/25/24 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Health & Hospitals Committee

[24-3172](#)

**Sponsored by:** MONICA GORDON, DENNIS DEER, TARA S. STAMPS, DONNA MILLER, BRIDGET DEGREN, JOSINA MORITA, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**REQUESTING A REPORT FROM THE COOK COUNTY HEALTH AND HOSPITALS SYSTEM AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ON THE CURRENT SYPHILIS STATISTICS, TREATMENT, EDUCATION, AND EFFORT TO REDUCE THE CASES OF**

**SYPHILIS AND CONGENITAL SYPHILIS IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, syphilis is a sexually transmitted infection (STI) that can cause serious health problems without treatment. Syphilis infection develops in stages known as primary, secondary, latent, and tertiary, with each stage presenting different signs and symptoms; and

**WHEREAS**, congenital syphilis (CS) is a disease that occurs when a mother with syphilis passes the infection on to her baby during pregnancy, affecting the baby depending on how long syphilis has gone untreated, causing among many other health impacts: miscarriage, stillbirth, prematurity, low birth weight, or even death shortly after birth; and

**WHEREAS**, babies born with congenital syphilis can present deformed bones, severe anemia, enlarged liver and spleen, jaundice, brain and nerve problems, like blindness or deafness, meningitis, and skin rashes; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the Cook County Department of Public Health's 2020-2021 STI Surveillance Report, published last year, "amid increases across the U.S., the number of Primary and Secondary Syphilis (PSS) cases rose 66% from 167 in 2020 to 277 in 2021. The rates doubled in non-Hispanic-Black/African-American persons, doubled in non-Hispanic Whites, and increased by 52% in Hispanic/Latinx persons. PSS rates are highest in west suburbs and those municipalities in the south bordering the City of Chicago. PSS rates increased 53% in men (sex at birth) and tripled in women (sex at birth)." And

**WHEREAS**, the CCDPH also reports that congenital syphilis cases more than doubled between 2020 and 2021, an especially worrisome trend considering that "Syphilis can look like so many other conditions. Providers must know how to diagnose, stage and treat syphilis. Writing a prescription is not enough, often, many patients may also need additional support to receive and complete treatment, including help paying for medications in some cases. Syphilis is preventable, treatable, and curable with the right medications given at the right time." And

**WHEREAS**, per the CDC, it is possible that a baby with CS won't have any symptoms at birth. But without treatment, the baby may develop serious problems. Usually, these health problems develop in the first few weeks after birth, but they can also happen years later. Babies who do not get treatment for CS and develop symptoms later can die from the infection. They may also be developmentally delayed or have seizures; and

**WHEREAS**, per the CCDPH website, last updated August of 2023, the only medication available to treat pregnant people with syphilis and babies with congenital syphilis is in short supply. Pfizer, the maker of this penicillin, anticipates this shortage until early- to mid-2024; and

**WHEREAS**, also per the CCDPH website, the Department is working to reduce the cases of syphilis by: serving as a technical consultant for test ordering, staging, and current treatment guidelines; contacting and talking with cases, help them to notify partners, and help individuals reduce risk; providing condoms; educating the public, providers and the department; monitoring trends and intervene where

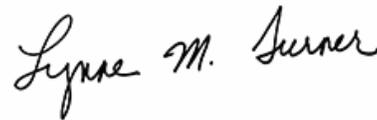
possible; and helping people get into primary care; and

**WHEREAS**, the CDC encourages all pregnant women to be tested for syphilis at the first prenatal visit, since people may have syphilis and not know it, may show no symptoms or symptoms may be very mild or similar to other health problems.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that representatives of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System and the Department of Public Health present to this body an updated report on the rates of syphilis and congenital syphilis in Cook County, the shortage of medication and impact on treatment, and their efforts to reduce the incidence of this disease; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners also requests that the CCDPH evaluate and propose education avenues on the spread and symptoms of syphilis for the public and medical workers, including primary doctors, gynecologists, and specialists to help them identify, treat and cure syphilis.

**Legislative History :** 5/16/24 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Health & Hospitals Committee



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Secretary

Chair: Vacant

Vice-Chair: Anaya

Members: Committee of the Whole