



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

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

1:00 PM

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

Issued on: 7/9/2026

ATTENDANCE

Present: Lowry, Anaya, Aguilar, Daley, Degnen, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, K. Morrison, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

Absent: Britton, Gainer, S. Morrison and Scott (4)

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

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

- 1) George Blakemore - Concerned Citizen
- 2) Dr. Mark Clifton - Illinois Vector-Disease Abatement Network
- 3) James P. Thennisch - Northwest Mosquito Abatement Network

[26-1986](#)

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 6/9/2026

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to approve 26-1986. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Lowry, Anaya, Aguilar, Daley, Degnen, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

Absent: Britton, Gainer, Morrison and Scott (4)

[26-1274](#)

Presented by: SHARONE MITCHELL, JR., Cook County Public Defender

REPORT

Department: Cook County Public Defender's Office

Report Title: 1st & 2nd Quarter Report

Report Period: December 2025- May 2026

Summary: Behavioral Health Resolution Quarterly Report for the Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to recommend for receiving and filing 26-1274. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Lowry, Anaya, Aguilar, Daley, Degnen, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

Absent: Britton, Gainer, Morrison and Scott (4)

[23-3815](#)

Sponsored by: DONNA MILLER, DENNIS DEER, JOHN P. DALEY and ALMA E. ANAYA, 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 COVID-19 AND OTHER DISEASES OF CONCERN IMMUNIZATION and MITIGATION 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, despite advances in treatment protocols and the availability of vaccines, COVID-19 continues to be a serious disease across the U.S. and Cook County, and;

WHEREAS, as of November 30, 2022, there have been 655,646 confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 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 COVID-19 Vaccine and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to authorize bivalent formulations of the vaccines (in individuals 18 years of age and older for Moderna and 12 years of age and older for Pfizer-BioNTech) 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 COVID-19 Vaccine and the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine to remove the use of the monovalent Moderna and Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 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; and

WHEREAS, the Novavax COVID-19 vaccine is currently approved for individuals 12 and up; and

WHEREAS, the ever-changing 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 COVID-19 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 COVID-19 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 COVID-19 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 meeting to discuss the Cook County Department of Public Health's COVID-19 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 COVID-19 response will provide quarterly COVID-19 updates to the Cook County Health and Hospitals Committee starting in September of 2023. This will include but not be limited to their COVID-19 vaccine plans, contract tracing and mitigation plans and any other pertinent information regarding COVID-19 or any 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 Vice Chairwoman Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to defer 23-3815. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Lowry, Anaya, Aguilar, Daley, Degnen, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

Absent: Britton, Gainer, Morrison and Scott (4)

[26-1611](#)

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

REPORT

Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

Report Title: Semi-annual Disparities Report

Report Period: final half of FY25-first half FY26

Summary: Semi-annual disparities report

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to recommend for approval 26-1611. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Lowry, Anaya, Aguilar, Daley, Degnen, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

Absent: Britton, Gainer, Morrison and Scott (4)

[26-1731](#)

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

REPORT

Department: Cook County Department of Public Health

Report Title: An Assessment of Mosquito Abatement Activities in Suburban Cook County

Report Period: n/a

Summary: The report, submitted in pursuant to resolution 25-3114, provides information on and recommendations for Mosquito Abatement activities in suburban Cook County.

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to recommend for approval 26-1731. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Lowry, Anaya, Aguilar, Daley, Degnen, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

Absent: Britton, Gainer, Morrison and Scott (4)

[26-1735](#)

Sponsored by: KEVIN B. MORRISON, BILL LOWRY, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A HEARING OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD'S HEALTH AND HOSPITALS COMMITTEE REGARDING THE INCREASED RATE OF COLORECTAL CANCER RATES IN POPULATIONS UNDER 45

WHEREAS, in the United States colon cancer and rectal cancer, collectively known as colorectal cancer (CRC), is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related death in both men and women; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society (ACS) estimates that in 2026 alone, approximately 108,860 new cases of CRC will be diagnosed in the US, with about 55,230 deaths; and

WHEREAS, the lifetime risk is such that about 1 in 25 men and 1 in 26 women will develop colorectal cancer; and

WHEREAS, alarmingly, cases of CRC are on the rise in younger adults, with 1 in 5 people being diagnosed with CRC is under age 55; and

WHEREAS, once thought as primarily a disease of older age, CRC is now the leading cause of cancer-related death among young adults and rising at an alarming rate in people under 50 - by nearly 3% per year - even as incidence has declined slightly in the overall population; and

WHEREAS, nearly 30% of Cook County's population is between the ages of 20 and 39; and

WHEREAS, The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires both private insurers and Medicare to cover the costs of all colorectal cancer screening tests but only after an individual is 45 years old; and

WHEREAS, the cause for this sudden increase in CRC in young adults remains unclear and requires attention by all experts in this field;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners call for a convening of the Cook County Board's Health and Hospitals Committee to conduct a hearing regarding the increase in colorectal cancer in young adults within Cook County and the necessary steps to ensure all residents have access to affordable preventative screenings.

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to recommend for receiving and filing 26-1735. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Lowry, Anaya, Aguilar, Daley, Degnen, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

Absent: Britton, Gainer, Morrison and Scott (4)

[26-1736](#)

Sponsored by: KEVIN B. MORRISON, BILL LOWRY, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), MICHAEL SCOTT JR., TARA S. STAMPS, MAGGIE TREVOR and JESSICA VÁSQUEZ, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO REQUIRE INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENINGS FOR INDIVIDUALS UNDER 45

WHEREAS, in the United States colon cancer and rectal cancer, collectively known as colorectal cancer (CRC), is the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second leading cause of cancer-related death in both men and women; and

WHEREAS, according to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 108,000 people in the U.S. will be diagnosed with CRC, with one in five of those cases occurring in younger adults under the age of 55; and

WHEREAS, since the 1990s, medical experts have seen increasing levels of CRC in young adults by about 3 percent per year; and

WHEREAS, according to experts at the International Agency for Research on Cancer, this increase is proportionally a lot higher among adults in their 20s and 30s; and

WHEREAS, despite these rising levels of CRC in younger populations, The Affordable Care Act (ACA) only requires private insurers and Medicare to cover the costs of colorectal cancer screening tests after an individual turns 45 years old; and

WHEREAS, as a result of lack of insurance coverage for these detection screenings, the majority of younger patients are only seeking medical assistance when they begin presenting with symptoms - and CRC symptoms emerge when the cancer has progressed to more aggressive stages, like stage 3 or 4;

and

WHEREAS, for those with regional stage colon cancer, there is less than a 75% chance of survival 5 years from diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, for those with distant stage colon cancer, there is less than a 15% chance of survival 5 years from diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, for those with regional stage rectal cancer, there is less than a 75% chance of survival 5 years from diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, for those with distant stage rectal cancer, there is less than a 20% chance of survival 5 years from diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, late-stage colon cancer offers a life expectancy of only 12-30 months; and

WHEREAS, conversely, for those of screening age, if cancer is found during screening the majority of cases are found at early stages -- where it is very treatable and curable; and

WHEREAS, though new options are available for testing for CRC, including blood tests and services like Colon Guard, insurance coverage for these is still limited to eligible patients only - meaning those 45 and older; and

WHEREAS, the out-of-pocket cost of Colon Guard is about \$600; and

WHEREAS, the average cost of a colonoscopy in the U.S. is \$2,750, but the procedure can range from \$1,250 to \$4,800 or more; and

WHEREAS, according to the 2024 Synchrony Average Procedural Cost Study for Cosmetic, Dental, Veterinary, Vision, and Other Practices Across the United States, the average cost of a colonoscopy out-of-pocket in Illinois is about \$2,400; and

WHEREAS, nearly 30% of Cook County's population is between the ages of 20 and 39; and

WHEREAS, in these stark economic times, the majority of young adult populations do not have the resources to afford these pricey screenings without insurance coverage; and

WHEREAS, as a result of lack of screenings, more and more of our workforce age populations are suffering from later stages of CRC that are more taxing on the body and more expensive to treat.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners do hereby call on the United States Federal Government to require both private insurance companies and Medicare to cover colorectal cancer screenings for those below the age of 45; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this text be spread upon the official proceedings of this Honorable Body, and suitable copies be tendered to the President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance, U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson, U.S. House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, U.S. Senate Majority Leader John Thune, U.S. Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin, U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth, Representative Delia Ramirez, Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi, Representative Mike Quigley, Representative Jan Schakowsky, Representative Robin Kelly, Representative Danny Davis, Representative Jonathan Jackson, Representative Chuy Garcia, Representative Brad Schneider, Governor JB Pritzker, Illinois Senate Leader Don Harmon, and Illinois House Speaker Emanuel Welch.

A motion was made by Vice Chairwoman Anaya, seconded by Commissioner Daley, to recommend for receiving and filing 26-1736. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Lowry, Anaya, Aguilar, Daley, Degnen, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

Absent: Britton, Gainer, Morrison and Scott (4)

ADJOURNMENT

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

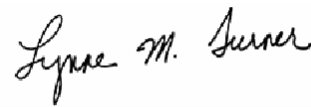
Ayes: Lowry, Anaya, Aguilar, Daley, Degnen, McCaskill, Miller, Moore, Morita, Morrison, Stamps, Trevor and Vásquez (13)

Absent: Britton, Gainer, Morrison and Scott (4)

Respectfully submitted,

Bill 

Chairman



Secretary

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