



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County**

**REVISED Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee**

**Wednesday, April 29, 2015**

**12:00 PM**

**Cook County Building, Board Room, Rm. 569  
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

**PUBLIC HEARING MEETING 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 submitted in writing, their name, address, subject matter, and organization (if any) to the Secretary 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Duly authorized public speakers shall 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 be germane to a specific item(s) on the meeting agenda, and the testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. 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.

**15-2114**

**Sponsored by:** LARRY SUFFREDIN and ELIZABETH "LIZ" DOODY GORMAN, County Commissioner

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**REQUESTING A HEARING OF THE LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS OPIATE/HEROIN ADDICTION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE COOK COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH SYSTEMS**

**WHEREAS**, the opiate/heroin crisis in Illinois calls for practical public health and public safety solutions, including broad-based and coordinated prevention, intervention, and treatment strategies, and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County, as with the whole region, has a growing opiate/heroin addiction problem;

**WHEREAS**, opiate/heroin addiction costs Cook County millions of dollars in healthcare and public safety spending yearly; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Department of Corrections processes 200-300 individuals per day, houses over 8,000 detainees at any given time, and sees more than 100,000 admissions per year; and

**WHEREAS**, seventy-four percent (74%) of these detainees screen positive for various types of drug use, and

**WHEREAS**, the Cermak Health Services manages over 500 opiate/heroin detoxes a month; and

**WHEREAS**, many detainees have multiple opiate/heroin detoxes in a year after multiple admissions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Health and Hospital System treats opiate/heroin addiction cases on a daily bases; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County as a leader in healthcare and public safety can establish cost effective treatments for opiate addiction; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1, which was recently introduced in the Illinois General Assembly, is the result of a statewide legislative task force that has studied opiate/heroin addiction and treatment options; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 1 would require increased resources and training for responding to opiate/heroin overdoses and addiction; and

**WHEREAS**, there are a number of methods to treat opiate/heroin addiction including FDA-approved medications to those with opiate/heroin addiction; and

**WHEREAS**, a variety of behavioral therapies can be effective at treating opiate/heroin addiction when combined with appropriate medications, and

**WHEREAS**, it is critical to understand that opiate/heroin addiction is a treatable disease.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that a meeting of the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee be convened to discuss the cost of opiate/heroin abuse on the health and well-being of Cook County Citizens and the impact on the Cook County Criminal Justice System and Cook County Health and Hospital System; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that a representative of the Cook County Sheriff and the Cook County Health and Hospital System present testimony on the cost and treatment options for opiate/heroin addiction at the Cook County Jail and the John Stroger Hospital Emergency Room; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that testimony should be presented at the Committee hearing in regard to the manner in which opiate/heroin affects the brain and the resultant behavior and the role that pharmacological interventions play in the treatment of opiate/heroin addiction and cost effective treatment.

**Legislative History:** 3/11/15 Board of Commissioners referred to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

  
Secretary

Chairman: Suffredin  
Vice-Chairman: Fritchey  
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Committee of the Whole