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COMPLETE

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Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Tytina Sanders-Bey
Organization (if any): Chicagoland Mom Squad
City/Town: Chicago
State: IL
ZIP: 60616

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

Cook County Health and Hospitals Committee Public Hearing 5/14/2024 2p

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

23-2304

Q4

What do you want to do?

PROVIDE WRITTEN COMMENT FOR INFORMATION ONLY (You may add written comments below)

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

We would like to submit this article for reference and consideration.

<https://www.liebertpub.com/doi/full/10.1089/bfm.2020.0311>

Health care access in the United States has been continuously shaped by structural racism, which encompasses the ways in which society upholds racial biases through “mutually reinforcing inequitable systems.”⁴ Chicago, Illinois, is notorious for its residential segregation, which continues to entrench both geographic separation of and disinvestment in AA communities. These policies have shaped disparities in health outcomes across the life course for AA residents,⁵ the majority of whom live on the South Side of Chicagoland.⁶ Despite just 17% of live births in Illinois being non-Hispanic Black, AA women have the highest rates of severe maternal morbidity, 101.5 per 10,000 deliveries, and the highest pregnancy-associated mortality ratio, 109 deaths per 100,000 live births.⁷ Both of these rates are three times higher than white women. In Chicago specifically, the AA infant mortality rate is 10.5 per 1,000 live births, more than three times higher than white infants.⁸ As for breastfeeding rates, the state of Illinois reports 84.2% for “ever breastfed” and 42.1% for “exclusive breastfeeding at 3 months,”⁹ far exceeding rates on the South Side of Chicago. For example, in the neighborhoods of Englewood and Roseland, with majority (95% or higher) AA populations, “ever breastfed” rates are 1.4% and 6.8%, and for “exclusive breastfeeding at 3 months,” rates are 0.6% and 4.1%, respectively.¹⁰ While a stark comparison, these breastfeeding rates are reflective of trends found across the United States.

One study found that in Chicago, neighborhoods with majority AA populations possessed smaller hospitals, which were more likely to close due to economic resources and bed size.¹² This example clearly demonstrates the insidiousness of structural racism, with selective health care investment setting up communities for increased vulnerability when closures inevitably occur.

Perinatal health care access on Chicagoland's South Side has historically been shaped by hospital closures, notable ones include Englewood, Osteopathic, and Hyde Park hospitals. At the beginning of 2019, Chicago had 19 hospitals with obstetric (OB) units, with 6 located on the South Side (Table 1). In 2019, two South Side hospitals closed their OB units,¹⁴ and in 2020, two more South Side hospitals temporarily closed their OB units due to the COVID-19 pandemic,¹⁵ one of which will now close permanently due to low delivery rates and budgetary concerns. Finally, a third South Side hospital announced it will close permanently in 2021. These closures leave just three OB units on the South Side, compared to the six each on the North and West sides of Chicago.

Q6

Submitting written testimony only

Please Indicate if you are only submitting written testimony or if you wish to address the Committee live (virtually) at the meeting.

Q7

Respondent skipped this question

If requesting to address the Board or Committee live (virtually or in-person), please provide an email address and phone number (This is required to receive and an invitation to the virtual meeting).

Q8

No

If addressing the Board or Committee live (in-person or virtually), do you require translation services?

Q9 Respondent skipped this question

If yes, which language do you need translated?
