



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

**Tuesday, January 26, 2021**

**1:00 PM**

**Virtual Meeting**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Present:** Deer, Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

**Absent:** Johnson (1)

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

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

1. Jay Bhatt - Family Christian Health Center
2. Mia Webster Cross - Family Christian Health Center
3. Dr. Kimako Patterson - Prairie-Hills D144
4. Bob Miller - Concerned Citizen
5. Peg Agnos - South Cooperative for Public Education
6. Robert Emmons Jr. - Concerned Citizen

[21-1019](#)

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 12/16/2020

**A motion was made by Commissioner Gainer, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve**

**21-1019. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Deer, Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

**Absent:** Johnson (1)

[21-0541](#)

**Sponsored by:** DONNA MILLER, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, LARRY SUFFREDIN, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI and DEBORAH SIMS, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**REQUESTING A PUBLIC HEARING OF THE COOK COUNTY HEALTH AND HOSPITALS COMMITTEE FOR A REPORT FROM THE COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERNING THE COVID-19 MASS IMMUNIZATION PLANS IN COOK COUNTY**

**WHEREAS,** Cook County, like the rest of the country and many parts of the world, is in the throes of another massive surge in coronavirus cases; and

**WHEREAS,** hospitals across the U.S. already have a higher load of Covid patients than ever before since the pandemic began, and the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Robert Redfield, warned earlier this month that the next few months of the pandemic would be among “the most difficult in the public health history of this nation”; and

**WHEREAS,** as of December 11, 2020 there have been 151,761 confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 in suburban Cook County under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Department of Public Health with 2,849 reported deaths; and

**WHEREAS,** on December 11, 2020, the FDA approved emergency use authorization of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine, and will decide on the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine on Dec. 17, 2020, marking a milestone in the fight against this insidious disease and important step to reduce illnesses, hospitalizations, and deaths; and

**WHEREAS,** the approval will quickly ramp up the federal government’s distribution of the potentially lifesaving vaccine to 64 states, territories and major cities across the nation, and the government plans to distribute 2.9 million doses of the vaccine within 24 hours, followed by an additional 2.9 million doses 21 days later for patients to get their second injection of the vaccine; and

**WHEREAS,** initial doses of Pfizer’s vaccine will be limited as manufacturing increases, with priority given to health-care workers and nursing homes first, but with subsequent phases the distribution will

become available to a wider portion of the populace; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) has been and is charged with making the COVID-19 vaccine available as soon as possible to people living and working in CCDPH's jurisdiction of suburban Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, CCDPH is working with partners at all levels, including hospitals, health care providers and community leaders, to develop flexible and responsive COVID vaccination programs that can accommodate different vaccines; and

**WHEREAS**, it is paramount that as the vaccines become more readily available we work together and take advantage of all available resources in order to effectively administer the complex and herculean task of mass immunization so that we can overcome this healthcare crisis and look towards recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, equally important will be to ensure the vaccines are distributed in an equitable fashion, prioritizing those areas and residents of the county that have been most impacted by this disease as a result of longstanding disparities in healthcare system access and delivery;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Health and Hospitals Committee convene a public hearing to discuss the Cook County Department of Public Health's Covid-19 vaccination planning.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to accept as substituted 21-0541. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Deer, Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

**Absent:** Johnson (1)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Morrison, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to recommend for approval as substituted 21-0541. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Deer, Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

**Absent:** Johnson (1)

**A motion was made by Chairman Deer, seconded by Commissioner Morrison, to reconsider 21-0541. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Deer, Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

**Absent:** Johnson (1)

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Commissioner Lowry, to recommend for deferral as substituted 21-0541. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Deer, Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

**Absent:** Johnson (1)

[21-0571](#)

**Sponsored by:** DENNIS DEER, BRIDGET GAINER, BILL LOWRY, STANLEY MOORE, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, LUIS ARROYO JR, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRANDON JOHNSON, DONNA MILLER, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEANM. MORRISON, PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS and LARRY SUFFREDIN, Cook County Board Of Commissioners

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**REQUESTING A PUBLIC HEARING OF THE COOK COUNTY HEALTH AND HOSPITALS COMMITTEE FOR A COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH BRIEFING ON COVID-19 VACCINE PLANS FOR 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,** 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,** on December 14, 2020, in the CCDPH's jurisdiction 157,083 cases of COVID-19 and 2,899 deaths attributable to the pandemic have been reported; and

**WHEREAS,** the FDA approved emergency use authorization of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine on December 11, and first shipments of the vaccine are expected to be delivered to suburban Cook County by the Illinois Department of Public Health the week of December 14, 2020; and

**WHEREAS,** CCDPH, working alongside the Cook County Department of Emergency Management and Regional Security, will be working to ensure receipt and distribution of the vaccine to the health care entities in its jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS,** CCDPH is working with partners to reach diverse populations and communities, including regional healthcare coalitions, federally qualified healthcare centers, pharmacies, long term care facilities, and community leaders, to develop flexible and responsive COVID-19 vaccination programs that can accommodate different vaccines; and

**WHEREAS**, CCDPH will take the lead in coordination, immunizing critical populations, and identifying and bridging gaps in vaccine coverage, and is committed to planning for the equitable distribution of vaccine and ensuring health equity is a driving component of any vaccine plans;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Health and Hospitals Committee convene a public hearing to discuss the Cook County Department of Public Health's COVID-19 vaccine plan for suburban Cook County.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Health and Hospitals Committee will provide a monthly update to discuss the Cook County Department of Public Health's COVID-19 vaccine plans as well as contact tracing plans for Suburban Cook County.

**A motion was made by Vice Chairman Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Silvestri, to recommend for receiving and filing 21-0571. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Deer, Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (15)

**Absent:** Gainer and Johnson (2)

**ADJOURNMENT**

**A motion was made by Commissioner Silvestri, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Deer, Arroyo, Aguilar, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, S. Morrison, Silvestri, Sims and Suffredin (16)

**Absent:** Johnson (1)

Respectfully submitted,

Text



Chairman



Secretary

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