



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

**Tuesday, April 5, 2022**

**12:00 PM**

**Cook County Building, Board Room,  
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois  
(Board Room Closed to Public -  
Meeting Virtual for Public)**

**ATTENDANCE**

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

**Absent:** Silvestri (1) Excused

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Vice Chairman Arroyo, to allow for remote participation in meeting [FILE\_NR]. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** Silvestri (1)

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY**

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

No public speakers

[22-2685](#)

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 03/09/2022

**A motion was made by Vice Chairman Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve 22-2685. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** Silvestri (1)

[22-2686](#)

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 03/15/2022

**A motion was made by Vice Chairman Arroyo, seconded by Commissioner Miller, to approve 22-2686. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** Silvestri (1)

[21-0541](#)

**Sponsored by:** DENNIS DEER, 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

**SUBMITTING A PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE TO FILE #21-0541  
(Health and Hospitals Committee 1/26/2021)**

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**REQUESTING A MEETING OF THE COOK COUNTY HEALTH AND HOSPITALS COMMITTEE TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM THE COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH ON THEIR COVID-19 MASS IMMUNIZATION 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**, COVID-19 continues to be a serious threat across the U.S. and Cook County, and

**WHEREAS**, many hospitals across the U.S. already have a higher load of COVID-19 patients than ever before since the pandemic began, and the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Dr. Robert Redfield, warned last 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 January 19, 2021 there have been 194,898 confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 in Suburban Cook County under the jurisdiction of the Cook County Department of Public Health with 3,639 reported deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 11, 2020, the FDA approved emergency use authorization of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 18, 2020, the FDA authorized the emergency use of the Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine in individuals 18 years of age or older; and

**WHEREAS**, the approval has quickly ramped up the federal government’s distribution of the potentially lifesaving vaccine to 64 states, territories and major cities across the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, initial doses of Pfizer’s vaccine have been 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) 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 vaccine available to people 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-19 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 difficult and complex 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 COVID-19 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 meeting to discuss the Cook County Department of Public Health’s COVID-19 vaccination planning 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 COVID-19 response will provide a monthly COVID-19 update to the Cook County Health and Hospitals Committee. This will include but not be limited to their COVID-19 vaccine plans, contract tracing plans and any other pertinent information regarding COVID-19 for Suburban Cook County.

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

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

**Absent:** Silvestri (1)

[22-1703](#)

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

**PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

**REQUESTING A MEETING OF THE COOK COUNTY HEALTH & HOSPITALS COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH & COOK COUNTY HEALTH ANALYSES OF HEALTH OUTCOME DISPARITIES IN COOK COUNTY AND RECOMMENDED SOLUTIONS**

**WHEREAS**, Chicago and Cook County has seen an unprecedented level of disparities in healthcare outcomes during the Covid-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic especially in black and brown communities reflecting national data; and

**WHEREAS**, African Americans have been historically disproportionately impacted by some of the underlying conditions that have affected the severity of the virus, including chronic cardiovascular and kidney diseases, diabetes, asthma, and obesity; and

**WHEREAS**, this crisis has shined a light on the causes of these disparities, which are rooted in generations of systemic disadvantages in health care delivery and health care access in communities of color, and in African American communities in particular; and

**WHEREAS**, learning lessons from this crisis and how it has adversely affected the black and brown communities and other marginalized populations is necessary to avoid the dismal and unacceptable

outcomes this pandemic has caused; and

**WHEREAS**, changes in demographics and migration patterns in Cook County have changed the landscape for healthcare needs and resulting outcomes; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County has been experiencing what some call “reverse migration” over the last decade with African Americans leaving urban areas for the suburbs, especially the south suburbs; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County also saw a significant increase in Hispanic populations; however, this increase was greatest in suburban Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, coupled with these trends in migration patterns suburban Cook County witnessed dramatic rises in its poverty levels especially in the southern portion of the county; and

**WHEREAS**, due to past and current policies and discrimination, many minorities, even those with middle- and upper incomes experience healthcare disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, educational, health, environmental, and economic opportunities among other social determinants all play a role in health outcomes for children and adults alike; and

**WHEREAS**, among neighborhoods with very low opportunity, over 50 percent of Black and 31 percent of Hispanic children live in very low opportunity neighborhoods in Cook County according to Child Opportunity Index data, which is a composite measure of neighborhood-based opportunities, at the census tract level, that influence children’s health and development; and

**WHEREAS**, these and other factors along with access to care all contribute to health outcome disparities in Cook County including for cardiovascular diseases mortality rate, maternal mortality rate, infant mortality rate, cancer mortality rate, asthma mortality rate, diabetes mortality rate, stroke mortality rate, etc.; and

**WHEREAS**, with the once in a lifetime opportunity created by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), it is paramount that a data driven strategy is created that coordinates the efforts of local, state and where appropriate federal government agencies and private sector partners in a targeted fashion that focuses funding efforts in areas that are most affected by lack of healthcare access, economic stagnation, urban decay, food deserts, and other structural barriers, which create the factors that can lead to health disparities; and

**WHEREAS**, it would be beneficial for the Cook County Public Health Department (CCDPH) and Cook County Health (CCH) to present a healthcare disparities analysis to the Cook County Board of Commissioners so that they can have a greater understanding of the challenges and needs of various communities throughout Cook County as it relates to health care access and health disparities and outcomes and present how the WePlan 2025 report and the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) will address them as well as how to align the CCH and CCDPH Strategic Plans and ARPA

funding proposals to accomplish the goals set forth in the report;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that a meeting of the Health and Hospitals Committee be convened to discuss healthcare disparities existing in Cook County and the factors that affect them along with measures planned to improve healthcare access in affected communities or regions, and the evidence-based solutions to address health disparities and improve outcomes; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Cook County Department of Public Health and Cook County Health should subsequently appear on a semi-annual basis before the committee to provide periodic updates on implementation progress of such solutions as outlined in the We Plan 2025 report and CCH and CCDPH Strategic plans, and provide recommendations/updates on the following topics:

1. The effectiveness of existing county policies centered around health equity and recommendations for additional changes or additions to said policies to enhance and improve outcomes and reduce health disparities.
2. Strategies that coordinate the efforts of local, state and where appropriate federal agencies in a targeted fashion that focuses said efforts in areas that are most affected by healthcare inequities in the City of Chicago and Suburban Cook County.
3. Recommend additional changes or additions to action plans to implement policies that further said coordinated strategies with the active involvement of residents, nongovernmental organizations, community-based organizations, and private partners.
4. Ensure a coordinated plan that aligns the Community Health Improvement Plan as outlined in the WePlan 2025 report and the CCH Strategic Plan and the CCDPH Strategic Plan to reduce healthcare disparities in minority and other marginalized populations in Cook County.
5. Recommend changes to current laws, rules or regulations that would improve healthcare outcomes in targeted sectors.
6. Recommend county programs or changes and additional programs that could make healthcare access more equitable in traditionally underserved and marginalized populations including expansion of CCH and CCDPH services.
7. Present data/ performance metrics of efforts in target areas to improve health equity and reduce disparities.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Vice Chairman Arroyo, to recommend for approval 22-1703. The motion carried by the following vote:**

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

**Absent:** Silvestri (1)

[22-2245](#)

**Presented by:** ISRAEL ROCHA JR., Chief Executive Officer, Cook County Health & Hospitals System

**REPORT**

**Department:** Cook County Health

- Departments of Behavioral Health & Psychiatry
- Cermak Health Services
- Juvenile Temporary Detention Center Health Services
- Cook County Department of Public Health

**Report Title:** Mental Health Services Quarterly Report

**Report Period:** December 2021 - February 2022

**Summary:** This Quarterly Report is to comply with the requirements of Resolution 21-1189 to Assess needs and Improve the Quality and Effectiveness of Behavioral Health Care Provided by Cook County Government.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Vice Chairman Arroyo, to receive and file 22-2245. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Deer, Arroyo, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Morrison, Sims and Suffredin (15)

**Absent:** Aguilar and Silvestri (2)

[22-2198](#)

**Presented by:** THOMAS J. DART, Sheriff of Cook County

**REPORT**

**Department:** Cook County Sheriff's Office

**Report Title:** Behavioral Health Services Quarterly Report

**Report Period:** December 2021 - February 2022

**Summary:** This Quarterly report is to comply with the requirements of Resolution# 21-1189 to Assess

Needs and Improve the Quality and Effectiveness of Behavioral Health Care Provided by the Cook County Government.

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Vice Chairman Arroyo, to receive and file 22-2198. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Deer, Arroyo, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Morrison, Sims and Suffredin (15)

**Absent:** Aguilar and Silvestri (2)

[22-2494](#)

**Presented by:** KIMBERLY M. FOXX, Cook County State's Attorney

**REPORT**

**Department:** State's Attorney

**Report Title:** Quarterly Behavioral Health Services Report

**Report Period:** 12/1/2021 - 2/28/2022

**Summary:** This Quarterly report is to comply with the requirements of Resolution# 21-1189 to Assess Needs and Improve the Quality and Effectiveness of Behavioral Health Care Provided by the Cook County Government

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Vice Chairman Arroyo, to receive and file 22-2494. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Deer, Arroyo, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Morrison, Sims and Suffredin (15)

**Absent:** Aguilar and Silvestri (2)

[22-2414](#)

**REPORT**

**Department:** Office of the Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County

**Report Title:** Behavioral Services Quarterly Report

**Report Period:** December 2021-February 28, 2022



**Summary:** Pursuant to the Cook County Board Resolution to assess needs and improve the quality and effectiveness of behavioral health provided by Cook County government, enclosed are the quarterly reports of behavioral health programs and services provided by the Circuit Court of Cook County

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Vice Chairman Arroyo, to receive and file 22-2414. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Deer, Arroyo, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Morrison, Sims and Suffredin (15)

**Absent:** Aguilar and Silvestri (2)

[22-2464](#)

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

## REPORT

**Department:** Cook County Public Defender's Office

**Report Period:** 12/1/2021 - 2/28/2022

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

**A motion was made by Commissioner Miller, seconded by Vice Chairman Arroyo, to receive and file 22-2464. The motion carried by the following vote:**

**Ayes:** Deer, Arroyo, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Morrison, Sims and Suffredin (15)

**Absent:** Aguilar and Silvestri (2)

## ADJOURNMENT

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

**Ayes:** Deer, Arroyo, Anaya, Britton, Daley, Degnen, Gainer, Johnson, Lowry, Miller, Moore, Morrison, Morrison, Sims and Suffredin (15)

**Absent:** Aguilar and Silvestri (2)

Respectfully submitted,

*Dennis Deer*

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Chairman

*Lynne M. Turner*

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Secretary

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