



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

Labor Committee

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

1:00 PM

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

Issued on: 3-05-2024

REVISED 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 registered to speak, with the Secretary, 24 hours in advance of the meeting. To register as a public speaker, go to the meeting details page for this meeting at <https://cook-county.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> to find a registration link. Duly authorized public speakers may speak live from the County Board Room at 118 N. Clark Street, 5th Floor, Chicago, IL or be sent a link to virtually attend the meeting and will 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 not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. After each virtual speaker has completed their statement, they will be removed from the meeting. Once removed, you will still be able to follow the proceedings for that day at:

<https://www.cookcountyil.gov/service/watch-live-board-proceedings> or in a viewing area at 69 W. Washington Street, 22nd Floor Conference Room C, Chicago, IL. 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. Written comments will not be read aloud at the meeting, but will be posted on the meeting page and made a part of the meeting record.

[24-1882](#)

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 01/23/2024

[24-1808](#)

Sponsored by: ALMA E. ANAYA, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON STRENGTHENING AND SUSTAINING THE HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE IN THE UNITED STATES

WHEREAS, Nationwide, the healthcare system faces a shortage of healthcare workers, including nurses and specialized doctors, which may jeopardize access to high quality, equitable care for patients and communities;

WHEREAS, according to the American Hospital Association, the United States boasts over 6,000 hospitals, including rural, urban, and local and state government community hospitals, servicing over 900,000 beds throughout the country;

WHEREAS, hospitals, clinics, and medical centers face job vacancies for various types of personnel, including nurses and respiratory therapists;

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic left a profound toll on the mental and physical well-being of healthcare workers, with many suffering from burnout, stress, and mental health challenges;

WHEREAS, the number of nurses entering retirement coupled with the Great Resignation - where over 47 million Americans voluntary quit their jobs - have led to unprecedented employee exits in the medical field;

WHEREAS, to address the shortages of medical professionals, many health systems have resorted to the use of staffing agencies to fill vacancies;

WHEREAS, staffing agencies are very costly for counties to maintain in the long term and difficult to manage while trying to fill permanent positions;

WHEREAS, permanent employees report difficulties with having to onboard and train temporary employees and little opportunity to build workplace morale;

WHEREAS, health systems throughout the nation need to employ permanent solutions to expand our healthcare workforce system, including an investment in employees from communities where healthcare access is not readily accessible, thereby increasing diversity and trust in the field.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Cook County Board of Commissioners calls on the federal government to work collaboratively with local and state governments to create a pipeline of healthcare workers to address the national shortage by:

- (1) funding programs aimed at creating opportunities for high school and post-secondary students

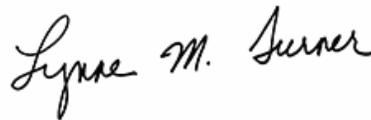
to explore career opportunities in the medical field;

- (2) designating scholarships and grants for students enrolled in degrees and licenses related to the medical field, including dentistry and mental and behavioral health;
- (3) outreaching to communities of color to encourage multi-lingual and diverse candidates from communities who typically do not have access to health care; and
- (4) identifying public funded medical systems throughout the nation, such as Cook County Health, to create a pipeline of healthcare workers with the goal of expanding and strengthening the health care workforce system.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a suitable copy of this resolution be sent to the Office of the President of the United States, Office of the Vice-President of the United States, the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the US Department of Health and Human Services, and the Illinois delegation in the US House of Representative and the US Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, a similar resolution was presented and approved at the National Association of Counties 2024 Legislative Conference, before the Health Steering Committee on February 10, 2024, in Washington, DC.

Legislative History : 2/29/24 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Labor Committee



Secretary

Chair: Anaya

Vice-Chair: Quezada

Members: Aguilar, Degnen, Lowry, Miller, Moore, K. Morrison, Stamps