Board of Commissioners of Cook County

Health & Hospitals Committee

Tuesday, November 10, 2026 **1:00 PM** **Cook County Building, Board Room, 118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

Issued on: 11/4/2026

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 Collaborative Room 2, Chicago, IL. Persons authorized to provide public testimony are encouraged to speak to an item that is germane to the meeting and shall not use vulgar, abusive, discriminatory, profane, or otherwise inappropriate language when addressing the Board; failure to act appropriately, 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.

26-2791

COMMITTEE MINUTES

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 10/20/2026

23-0202

Sponsored by: DENNIS DEER, FRANK J. AGUILAR, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, JOSINA MORITA, KEVIN B. MORRISON, SEAN M. MORRISON, ANTHONY J. QUEZADA and MAGGIE TREVOR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION REQUESTING A HEARING OF THE HEALTH AND HOSPITALS COMMITTEE FOR A REPORT FROM THE SENIOR STAFF OF COOK COUNTY HEALTH & HOSPITAL SYSTEM

WHEREAS, the Cook County Health and Hospital System (CCHHS) is the largest provider of healthcare services in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the County through CountyCare, a no-cost Illinois Medicaid managed care health plan, provides health insurance to thousands of Cook County residents; and

WHEREAS, the President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, in recommending and approving the annual appropriation bill, has invested in many programs to protect the health and well-being of persons in Cook County; and

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2010, the Cook County Board of Commissioners voted to make permanent the independent Board of Directors overseeing the Cook County Health and Hospitals System; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Board of Commissioners retains oversight authority over the hospital system through passage of the budget for CCHHS, as well as appointment authority over directors appointed to the Board of Directors.

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 the operations of the Cook County Health and Hospital System.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the senior staff of the Cook County Health and Hospital System appear before the Committee and be prepared to update the Committee on the CCHHS's services and operations.

Legislative History : 12/15/22 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Health & Hospitals Committee

Legislative History : 6/27/23 - Health & Hospitals Committee - defer

Legislative History : 6/29/23 - Board of Commissioners - defer

Legislative History : 5/13/25 - Health & Hospitals Committee - defer

Legislative History : 5/15/25 - Board of Commissioners - suspend the rules

Legislative History : 5/15/25 - Board of Commissioners - defer

Legislative History : 11/19/25 - Health & Hospitals Committee - defer

Legislative History : 11/20/25 - Board of Commissioners - defer

Legislative History : 2/3/26 - Health & Hospitals Committee - defer

Legislative History : 2/5/26 - Board of Commissioners - defer

Legislative History : 3/10/26 - Health & Hospitals Committee - defer

Legislative History : 3/12/26 - Board of Commissioners - defer as substituted

Legislative History : 4/14/26 - Health & Hospitals Committee - defer

Legislative History : 4/16/26 - Board of Commissioners - defer

26-2640

Sponsored by: DR. KISHA E. McCASKILL, Cook County Board of Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

PROPOSED RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS LABOR AND DELIVERY UNIT CLOSURES AND PROMOTE COLLABORATIVE STATE AND COUNTY-WIDE ACTION TO PROTECT MATERNAL HEALTHCARE IN CHICAGO'S SOUTH SIDE AND SOUTH SUBURBAN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, access to safe, timely, and affordable maternal healthcare is essential to protecting the lives of pregnant individuals, mothers, and newborns throughout Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Public Health's 2025 Maternal Mortality Data Report found that during 2021-2022, pregnancy-related mortality was 78 deaths per 100,000 live births among Black women, compared with 33 among White women; and 42 per 100,000 among Chicago residents, compared with 32 among suburban Cook County residents; and

WHEREAS, 91% of pregnancy-related deaths reviewed in Illinois during 2021-2022 were determined to be potentially preventable, underscoring the importance of timely medical care, accessible maternity services, and coordinated preventive interventions; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois Department of Public Health's Blueprint for Birth Equity reports that Illinois experienced a 27% net reduction in birthing facilities between 2016 and 2023, with 32 obstetric hospitals closing; and Chicago's South Side, where majority-Black neighborhoods are served by only three of the city's 16 birthing hospitals, has been particularly affected; and more than one-third of Illinois counties are classified as maternity care deserts; and

WHEREAS, the loss of labor-and-delivery units can increase travel distances, delay emergency obstetric care, disrupt prenatal and postpartum continuity, strain neighboring hospitals, threaten healthcare employment, and disproportionately burden low-income families and historically underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, Roseland Community Hospital has announced plans to discontinue labor-and-delivery services effective October 31, 2026, citing financial pressures, further reducing maternity-care options for Chicago's Far South Side and surrounding south suburban communities; and

WHEREAS, Cook County has previously considered maternal healthcare through Resolution 25-0917 and adopted Resolution 25-2301 declaring maternal morbidity and mortality a public health crisis; and Illinois has established the Blueprint for Birth Equity and existing hospital reimbursement and financial-support initiatives, demonstrating the importance of coordinated implementation and timely intervention; and

WHEREAS, Illinois House Bill 3453, introduced in the 104th General Assembly, proposed at least 120 days' public notice and a public meeting before a hospital discontinued a perinatal unit, but was re-referred to the House Rules Committee on March 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, state-level officials have expressed support for convening relevant stakeholders to address labor-and-delivery unit closures and advance coordinated action to protect access to maternal healthcare throughout Chicago's South Side and south suburban underserved communities; and

WHEREAS, additional coordinated action is needed to identify threatened maternity services, assess regional capacity, evaluate available resources, and develop feasible interventions before further closures occur, without duplicating existing initiatives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Cook County Commissioner Dr. Kisha, E. McCaskill, and the Cook County Board of Commissioners, calls to convene a public hearing to address labor-and-delivery unit closures and suggest governmental action to protect maternal healthcare access, with particular attention to the underserved communities on Chicago's South Side and in the south suburbs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the hearing shall use the existing studies to identify the implementation of safeguards to directly address the maternity-unit closures; regional hospital capacity; maternal and newborn safety; transportation and continuity-of-care barriers; workforce and community impacts; and existing (allocated/allotted) government funding and grants, reimbursement, and other

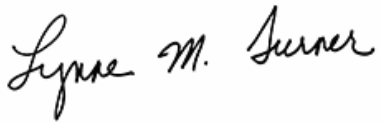
resources available to stabilize, sustain and/or coordinate safe alternative care; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate governing agencies, hospitals, municipalities, healthcare professionals, and community organizations are encouraged to collaborate to identify threatened services, assess available resources and barriers, and pursue feasible interventions, and recommend specific next steps for early intervention and coordinated action; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners would encourage impacted hospital(s) such as Roseland to establishing a temporary moratorium on labor-and-delivery unit closures until appropriate community-impact assessments, public engagement, and safe transition plans are completed, reviewed and accepted by the respective governing bodies, and shared with the community and other stakeholders, with appropriate exceptions to protect immediate patient safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a request shall be made to the Cook County Clerk to transmit copies of this resolution to the respective governing agencies and partners for their consideration and appropriate action.

Legislative History : 10/22/26 - Board of Commissioners - refer to the Health & Hospitals Committee



Secretary

Chair: Lowry
Vice-Chair: Anaya
Members: Committee of the Whole