



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County
Human Relations Committee**

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

12:00 PM

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

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 submitted in writing, their name, address, subject matter, and organization (if any) to the Secretary 24 hours in advance of the meeting. Duly authorized public speakers shall 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 be germane to a specific item(s) on the meeting agenda, and the testimony must not exceed three minutes; the Secretary will keep track of the time and advise when the time for public testimony has expired. 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.

15-1618

Sponsored by: RICHARD R. BOYKIN, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A HEARING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON SERVICE GAPS IN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago closed six of its 12 Community Mental Health Clinics in April of 2012; and,

WHEREAS, according to Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, the reduction in funding for mental health services across multiple levels of government, including the Chicago clinic closures, has resulted in the Cook County Jail being the largest mental health facility in the state and possibly the nation; and,

WHEREAS, according to a joint report authored by the Mental Health Movement of Chicago and AFSCME

Council 31, Chicago's closure of half of its mental health clinics resulted in a failure by the City of Chicago to account for hundreds and perhaps thousands of people who had depended on these clinics for mental health treatment services; and,

WHEREAS, that same report, entitled "Abandoning the Most Vulnerable," cites a complete lack of a comprehensive effort to determine how many people lost access to mental health treatment services after the Chicago clinic closures and similar lack of effort to make contact with the individuals who lost access to treatment and connect them with new service providers; and,

WHEREAS, Cook County, which is charged with providing services to the most vulnerable members of our local population, deals every day with the consequences of an inadequate safety net that has stranded too many of our residents without access to care that they urgently need; and,

WHEREAS, we count among those consequences an overcrowded Jail, court system and Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, all of which constitute a significant drain on Cook County's Budget and resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County President and Board of Commissioners does hereby request a meeting of the Human Relations Committee of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, to take place Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 10 AM at 118 North Clark Street, Rm. 569, Chicago, Illinois.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, by the Cook County President and the Board of Commissioners that the above referenced meeting of the Human Relations Committee of the Cook County Board of Commissioners focus exclusively on the service gaps caused by reduction in Community Mental Health Services in the City of Chicago and its impact on the Cook County Budget and the population that the County serves.

Legislative History: 2/10/15 Board of Commissioners referred to the Human Relations Committee


Secretary

Chairman: Boykin
Vice-Chairman: Silvestri
Members: Arroyo Jr., Fritchey, Sims, Steele, Suffredin