



**Board of Commissioners of Cook County**

**Health & Hospitals Committee**

**Wednesday, July 24, 2019**

**10:30 AM**

**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.

[19-3677](#)

**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Approval of the minutes from the meeting of 04/23/2019

[19-3312](#)

**Presented by:** TERRY MASON, MD, FACS, Chief Operating Officer, Cook County Department of Public Health

**REPORT**

**Department:** Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH)

**Report Title:** CCDPH Quarterly Report

**Report Period:** Second Quarter, 2019

**Summary:** The Cook County Department of Public Health hereby presents its Quarterly Report to the Cook County Board of Commissioners in their capacity as the Board of Health of Cook County.

**Legislative History:** 6/27/2019 Board of Commissioners refer to the Health & Hospitals Committee

[19-4285](#)

**Sponsored by:** DENNIS DEER, ALMA E. ANAYA, SCOTT R. BRITTON, JOHN P. DALEY, BRIDGET DEGNEN, BRIDGET GAINER, BRANDON JOHNSON, BILL LOWRY, DONNA MILLER, STANLEY MOORE, KEVIN B. MORRISON, TONI PRECKWINKLE (President), PETER N. SILVESTRI, DEBORAH SIMS, LARRY SUFFREDIN, JEFFREY R. TOBOLSKI and LUIS ARROYO JR, Cook County Board of Commissioners

## **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

### **RECOGNIZING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

**WHEREAS,** Public Health Awareness raises awareness of the relationship between the health of individuals and the health of their communities; and

**WHEREAS,** African Americans comprise 1.3 million of Cook County's total population, the largest in any County, and Latin Americans comprise a comparable percentage of Cook County's population; and

**WHEREAS,** race is a social construction with no biological basis; and

**WHEREAS,** studies link racism to negative health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS,** areas falling under the public health category include healthy communities, violence prevention, rural health, technology, public health, climate change, and global health; and

**WHEREAS,** the promotion of healthy communities directly relates to the health of individuals, and encourages expanding public health support networks to decrease racial disparities in health outcomes; and

**WHEREAS,** communities of color are disproportionately impacted by social detriments to health, such as: increased exposure to lead; poor air quality; lack of safe places to walk, bike, run, live, and inadequate health education; and

**WHEREAS,** Cook County is the 2nd largest County in the United States, with health disparities among its racial populations, and

**WHEREAS,** racism is a social system with multiple dimensions, including individual racism and systemic

racism; and

**WHEREAS**, individual racism is internalized or interpersonal, which may manifest in microaggressions against others based on race; and

**WHEREAS**, systemic racism is an institutional or structural system based on structuring opportunity and assigning value through the social interpretation of one's race; and

**WHEREAS**, systemic racism unfairly disadvantages individuals, businesses, and communities while simultaneously depleting the strength of society through the wasteful use of human resources; and

**WHEREAS**, an emerging body of research demonstrates racism is a social detriment to health caused by racial discrimination in housing, education, employment, transportation, and criminal justice; and

**WHEREAS**, studies show African Americans have the highest death rate at every life stage; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County's Department of Public Health's most recent data indicates the average infant mortality rate in Cook County is 6.6 infant deaths per 1000 live births. However, compared to their Hispanic and Non-Hispanic White counterparts, African American mothers experienced the highest rate, and double Cook County's average rate, of infant mortality at 13.6 infant deaths per 1000 live births; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2018 the diabetes diagnoses rates for African Americans was 1.9 percent higher than non-minorities and Latinos diabetes diagnoses rates was 1.7 percent higher than non-minorities; and

**WHEREAS**, County Health Rankings (using 2018 data) places Cook County as the 52nd healthiest county in the State of Illinois out of 102 counties; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County must address the persistent disparities in health outcomes and the social, economic, educational, and environmental inequities contributing to them; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County will commit to achieving health equity; and

**WHEREAS**, while there is no epidemiologic definition of "crisis", the health impact of racism clearly rises to the definition proposed by Galea, "[t]he problem must affect large numbers of people, it must threaten health over the long-term, and it must require the adoption of large-scale solutions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Cook County Department of Public Health will work with the newly formed Racial Equity Leadership Council in Offices Under the President to remove health inequities for the benefit of all residents of Cook County, and for the County to achieve its full potential; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County will hereby commit to establishing an Office of Equity and Inclusion in Offices Under the President and create the position of Chief Equity Officer to coordinate efforts and work with

all independently elected offices to achieve racial equity in Cook County; and

**WHEREAS**, with the support from community partners and the Office of Equity and Inclusion, it is the County’s responsibility to address racism, including seeking solutions to reshape the discourse and activity engage all citizens in racial justice work.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Cook County will: Assert that racism is a public health crisis affecting our entire society; Assess internal policy and procedures to ensure racial equity is a core element of the County; led by the Cook County Board President and the Cook County Board of Commissioners (County Board), in collaboration with newly formed Racial Equity Leadership Council in Offices Under the President and other relevant parties; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the County will work to create an inclusive organization identifying specific activities to: (1) increase diversity across its workforce and in leadership positions; (2) incorporate inclusion and equity into organizational practices; (3) work with Human Resources to offer educational trainings/activities to expand employees' understanding of how racism affects individuals; and (4) work with marginalized populations to provide tools to assist employees across Cook County to engage actively and authentically with communities of color,(5) Advocate for relevant policies that improve health in communities of color, and (6) support local, State, and Federal initiatives that advance social justice, (7) while encouraging individual employees, and advocate; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the County will encourage other local, State, and national entities to recognize racism as a public health crisis.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the County Board hereby supports the efforts to address public health disparities due to racial inequities throughout Cook County

**Legislative History:** 6/27/2019 Board of Commissioners refer to the Health & Hospitals Committee



---

Secretary

Chairman: Deer  
Vice-Chairman: Arroyo  
Members: Committee of the Whole