

**Cook County Health & Hospital Systems (CCHHS)
Board Budget Recommendation
Public Hearing
Tuesday, October 31, 2017**

Thank you for holding this budget hearing to gather information on healthcare services within the County health system.

I serve as the President and CEO of Community Counseling Centers of Chicago (C4). Established in 1972, C4 is a leading provider of community –based mental health services to more than 10,000 children, adults and families each year. Through the delivery of effective, empirically-supported mental health services, C4 provides people with the tools necessary to improve their health and the quality of their lives.

C4 has navigated many challenges over the years. We currently serve County Care members on both the north and south side of the city of Chicago.

- Access to Care -- C4 is a member of the Behavioral Health Consortium of Illinois (LLC) that provides access to services for county care members. Our services include outpatient counseling for both children and adults; psychiatric support which includes psych evaluations, medication monitoring and training for both children and adults; crisis services for both children and adults 24/7. We also offer integrated healthcare.
- County Care Insurance -- County Care insurance has provided coverage for a significant number of C4 clients who historically were unfunded.
- Impact on Community/Trauma – Health insurance allows a person to receive services that they typically could not access. Without health insurance, this forces individuals to access emergency room care (at a higher cost) or end up in Cook County jail, or hospitalized on a psychiatric unit, or to not seek treatment at all.

Because behavioral health services are currently funded, County Care members have been able to be maintained in the community and get treatment for trauma they have experienced.

- Continued Funding for Behavioral Health Services – C4 urges the Cook County Board to continue to provide funding for behavioral health within the CCHHS health services system. We believe this is crucial to keeping our communities healthy and safe.

Respectfully submitted,

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