

October 23, 2018

Dear Commissioners,

Per your request at the County budget hearing in Skokie on the October 22nd, I am outlining the efforts Access to Care has made over the last few years to procure funding from various sources in addition to the Cook County Health and Hospitals System support.

To start, it is important to note that the funding Access to Care receives from the Cook County Health and Hospitals System is now a little less than half our budget. In 2014, it was more than three quarters of the budget. While Cook County funding remains critical to our survival, we have solicited funds from others and have been moderately successful in diversifying our support.

In the last three years, since I took the helm at Access to Care, we have investigated increased funding from area hospitals and hospital systems. As you likely are aware, the environment facing hospitals is very different from three years ago. Due to high deductibles for even those with insurance, hospitals are facing increased uncompensated care costs. Because of the uncertainties around the Affordable Care Act, including the current Administration's holding back subsidies owed hospitals as well as new, bare-bone policies with limited patient coverage and stagnant insurance reimbursements in general including for Medicaid services, hospitals state that they are less willing to fund outside programs such as ours. (For example, Advocate Hospital System recently stopped funding the very successful program, HispanoCare, for this reason). We are continuing our efforts to be included in hospital Community Benefit programs.

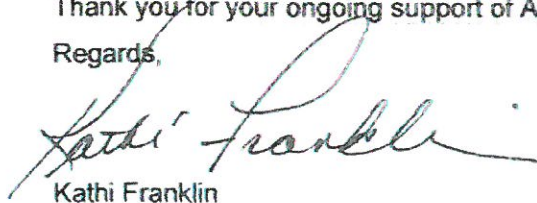
Access to Care does receive deeply discounted services, that are essentially donated services from hospitals, through the hospital-based medical groups as well as radiology and laboratory services. Through the various hospital-based medical practices, we are supported by nearly all the major hospital groups in our service area. To highlight one example, we receive approximately \$3 million in such discounted/donated services from the Loyola Hospital System alone. We continue to look for other creative ways for the hospitals to support Access to Care, e.g., Presence is a provider in our Behavioral Health Pilot.

Access to Care also receives funding (\$750,000 in 2018) from various private foundations. We are continuing to explore other funding to further diversify our funding sources. To that end, we have hired a dedicated Development Manager and are in the process of creating an Auxiliary Board whose only focus will be fundraising and finding new sources of support. Our goal is to generate funds from corporations and other private foundations.

Please let me know if you have further questions on our funding. We would look forward to hearing any other ideas you have for broadening our financial base.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Access to Care.

Regards,



Kathi Franklin

President

SUBURBAN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE COUNCIL

A not-for-profit organization founded by: Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County;  
Cook County Department of Health; Northwest Suburban Cook County Health and Task Force; and Park Forest Health Department.