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Woodlawn Health Center

November 9, 2018

Honorable John P. Daley
Chairman, Committee on Finance
Cook County Board
118 N. Clark Street, 3M
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chairman Daley,

Below please find responses to questions requiring follow-up posed at the October 25, 2018 Department Review hearing and at the FY19 Budget Public Hearings pertaining to Cook County Health (CCH).

Chairman Daley

- **Regarding Access to Care - what is the percent of care they provide vs. salaries?**

CCH does not have this information.

Commissioner Boykin

- **What is the number of vacant positions in this budget?**

CCH currently has 724 vacancies, the majority of which are in the hiring process. As with health systems both locally and nationally, CCH vacancies are rolling in nature due to the level of movement in the health care industry. The fluidity of CCH's vacancies is accounted for in our turnover adjustment in the budget.

Last year CCH cleaned up its vacancies and we believe we do not have any that have been open for more than 18 months. The new Enterprise Business Solution (EBS) system does not allow us to determine the number of positions that have been vacant for more than 12 months.

- **Is there an opportunity to collaborate work with the Sheriff's office at the West Side and Roseland Community Triage Centers (CTC)? Would you be open to having a conversation with the Sheriff's Office, as they get more involved in the city?**

CCH is always open to collaborating with our Cook County partners and stakeholders. CCH and the Sheriff's Office are in the process of scheduling a meeting to discuss the Sheriff's Chicago Initiative to determine what, if any opportunities exist.

Commissioner Fritchey

- **What is the cost associated with the 55 new Environmental Services (EVS) workers?**

The FY19 budget includes 54 FTE positions in Environmental Services – 43 building service workers, 7 managers and 4 building custodians. The costs, including salary, benefits and pension associated with these positions totals approximately \$3.6M.

- **How was the decision made to hire additional Environmental Services (EVS) staff rather than privatizing those services? Please provide any written documentation.**

The new Professional Building is attached to Stroger Hospital. Given the timing of both the Joint Commission survey and the opening of the new Professional Building it was not practical to go through an outsourcing process. We believe we are better off working with our labor partners to improve environmental services in both Stroger Hospital and the new Professional Building. Furthermore, using outsourced staff in the Professional Building would not provide the flexibility to move staff from building to building as needs arise.

Commissioner Goslin

- **Does CCH require performance metrics in the Access to Care grant?**

The existing contract requires the Suburban Primary Healthcare Council to provide primary health care services to approximately 1,978, low-income, uninsured residents of suburban Cook County through the Access to Care program and to link each eligible resident to a primary care physician for low cost office visits.

Commissioner Schneider

- **What is the yearly investment in the new Vista clinic?**

The operating cost for the new Vista Clinic is estimated to be \$5.3M which includes the cost of the lease and amortization of equipment and build out. CCH anticipates the annual operating cost to grow over time as staff are added to meet increased patient volume.

Commissioner Suffredin

- **In the health system budget the TB Fund is reduced to \$1.8M; however, the Revenue Book reflects a balance of \$5.8M. Please explain the discrepancy.**

In the FY19 budget book, the Salaries and Wages calculation was inadvertently omitted from the cost of the TB Fund, which is creating a larger fund balance. This is corrected in our Technical Amendment.

- **Page E-86, under Contractual Services there is a \$4.5M increase in Purchased Services Not Otherwise Classified - please provide detail on the increase and associated services.**

This increase is a result of moving both the Imperial Parking contract for the Central Campus parking garage and the ABM bus service contract for patient and employee shuttles from the Central Campus to off-site parking at the JTDC and 13th and Hastings from Account-520389 Contract Maintenance Service Account to Account-520670 Purchased Service Not Otherwise Classified.

Public Hearings – Chairman Daley

- **During the Finance Committee’s public hearings regarding the proposed FY19 budget a number of public speakers shared their concerns about the County’s Public Health funding to address and reduce sexually transmitted infections (STI). Does the proposed funding in the FY19 budget allow the Hospital System to adequately address the screening and treatment needed to assist patients with these infections? If possible, can you provide information on the number of patients the Hospital System has treated with sexually transmitted infections in the last year?**

Yes, CCH’s FY 19 proposed budget provides funding to expand STI services through our Community Health Centers and includes \$1M to address STI issues in suburban Cook County. These additional funds will be used for testing, educational programs and other interventions. In 2017, CCH treated more than 100,000 patients for STI’s/STD’s.

Public Hearings – Prieto Community Health Center Board

- **Is there funding in the CCH budget for a wheelchair lift at the Prieto Community Health Center?**

In the FY2019 Capital Improvement budget, CCH has requested \$400,000 for the Prieto Community Health Center renovations. CCHHS intends to install a wheelchair lift by the end of Q2-2019.

- **Why are all employees at Prieto Community Health Center not bi-lingual? Security Company has no bi-lingual staff at Prieto – can CCH direct them to staff Prieto with bi-lingual security guards?**

Historically, CCH job descriptions listed being bilingual as a preferred qualification rather than a required qualification. That is changing. As positions are vacated and re-posted, CCH will evaluate the need at the specific location to determine if the position should be filled with bilingual team members. All client facing CCH job descriptions are being updated to ensure that a separate job code is available to post bilingual positions as a requirement. We believe this will provide CCH the flexibility to ensure bilingual employees will be working at the Prieto, Logan Square and Vista Community Health Centers. Additionally, CCH is in the process of updating job descriptions system-wide and identifying positions that should require certain positions to be bilingual rather than merely a preferred qualification.

CCH contracts with Allied Universal for security services at all of our community health centers. The current contract expires July 31, 2019. While the existing contract does not specify that bilingual personnel be assigned to certain facilities, CCH will work with the vendor to increase the bilingual security personnel at the Prieto Community Health Center. In addition, CCH will place a requirement in future security services contracts identifying specific community health centers that will require bilingual personnel.

Kindly let me know if I can provide further clarification.

Sincerely,



John Jay Shannon, MD