

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name: Dr. Carolyn L. Vessel

Organization (if any): I AM ABLE Center for Family Development, Inc

City/Town: Chicago

State: IL

ZIP: 60624

Q2

Tell us which meeting you wish to be recorded as a witness. If you don't know the meeting or date, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar. Please fill out a separate form for each meeting at which you wish to speak.

County Health and Hospitals Committee 7/242019 1030a

Q3

Tell us the File ID number (example 17-0000) of the item on which you are registering your position. If you don't know the number, we can help at 312.603.6398 or cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov. You can also look it up using the County Calendar or the Forest Preserve Calendar

19-4285

Q4

What do you want to do?

ATTEND THE MEETING and SPEAK IN FAVOR of a specific item (You may still add written comments below)

Q5

Written Statement? You can type or copy/paste any written statement you want included in the meeting record here. If this is not enough space, or you have other attachments for distribution, please email them to cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov

The health of any people group, that God put on planet earth, is connected to their ability to thrive and not just survive. As a result of being marginalized by those who consider themselves better than, for more than 400 years, The African in America is the only people group in the USA, County of Cook that has been constantly and intentionally marginalized. We have been singled out through systemic racism, classism and to quarantined to a life that interrupts our physical and mental well-being.

No other people group continues to suffer at these alarming rates, producing health issues that impact us in utero, during childbirth, in childhood, and in our formative years, before the pre-frontal lobe is fully developed. That alone tells you the crisis that this nation has purposefully caused, to this mentally and physically strong people group. No other people group could survive what we have suffered.

The fact that we've survived speaks to this truth, but the other truth is that our people are not thriving, as we continue trying to produce 'firsts' in areas that are the norm for our oppressors, while spending our entire lives, unhealthily, fighting every injustice, while the oppressor continues to profit from our pain.

It's time for African Americans to be singled out, but this time with reparations, to be on the receiving-end of every health giving and health building opportunity in Cook County, with the intentions of them never again being left out of the possibility of mental, physical, emotional, economic and relational health and wellness. In Cook County, we must not allow the oppressor to put a question mark where a period is. **RACISM IS UNHEALTHY, PERIOD!**