



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY**

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TONI PRECKWINKLE  
PRESIDENT

January 22, 2020

Via: Personal Delivery

Honorable Dennis Deer  
Cook County Commissioner  
118 N. Clark Street, Room 567  
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Commissioner Deer:

Thank you for the opportunity to learn about the search process for the recruitment of Cook County Health's new Chief Executive Officer (CEO). The System Board's dedication and commitment to Cook County Health and the residents of Cook County is appreciated and imperative to Cook County Health's ongoing success. As the System Board embarks on this significant endeavor of recruiting a new CEO, it is imperative for the System Board to also consider input from the residents of Cook County as well as the Board of Commissioners on the characteristics and background desired for a new CEO at Cook County Health.

As Cook County Board President, I appreciate the collaboration of the System Board and look forward to working with Cook County Health administration to improve the communication, accountability and transparency of operations at Cook County Health. As the System Board moves forward with recruitment strategy for a new CEO, it is important to cast a wide net on potential candidates.

The System Board should recruit a diverse set of candidates who desire to continue to improve upon the health of Cook County, are interested in continuing to secure the future of the health system and will advocate for a health care institution that all residents will want to use regardless of a patient's ability to pay. In order to continue to elevate the health of our residents, the new CEO will not only need to be focused on high-quality health care but must also be committed to raising awareness on the issues that impact public health and health policy in Cook County. The new CEO should be engaged in addressing the issues that impact Cook County health, including Cook County's provision of uncompensated care. The new CEO must also be willing to collaborate and communicate with our health care partners in the community to discuss and provide solutions that will impact change and provided for a healthier Cook County.



Though not necessarily required, a CEO candidate who is familiar with the provision of public health care and who has worked in a large health care or public health institution may provide for a smoother transition and a better understanding of Cook County Health's strategic vision and the challenges that Cook County faces. The candidate should be an innovative health care professional who will continue to focus on building a viable and sustainable health care system and a model public health care provider. The candidate should be familiar with or be interested in expanding equity and health care access to all residents in Cook County and have the ability to develop partnerships with our County health care partners to increase the provision of uncompensated care County-wide. The candidate should be an excellent communicator who understands the complexities of health care management/administration and can speak to various audiences and constituencies regardless of their level of knowledge or familiarity with health care management and policy. The new CEO should be a successful change agent who can partner with advocates, experts, healthcare providers and community members to improve health care in Cook County.

I have confidence in the efforts being undertaken by the System Board in recruiting a new CEO and remain appreciative of the System Board and the Cook County Health and Hospitals Committee's willingness to hear from the public regarding the CEO recruitment strategy and the criteria desired by our residents for the selection of a new CEO. I am confident that the System Board will select a candidate who shares Cook County's priority of improving the health and well-being of those we serve.

Sincerely,



Toni Preckwinkle  
President

cc: Cook County Board of Commissioners  
Hill Hammock, System Board Chair, Cook County Health