

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE BUDGET HEARINGS  
20-4595 - FY 2021 EXECUTIVE BUDGET RECOMMENDATION**

	Witness Name:	Organization (if any):	City/Town:
1.	Maureen Keane	Concerned Citizen	Chicago
2.	Henry	Concerned Citizen	Oak Forest
3.	Richard LoPresti	Holy Remnant of God	Chicago
4.	Maurice Lemon	Access to Care	Westchester
5.	John Hieronymus, RN	National Nurses United/NNOC	Chicago
6.	Erin Tucker	National Nurses United	Chicago
7.	Rukiya Griffin	National Nurses United (NNU)	Chicago
8.	B. Thomas	NNU	
9.	Candace Sanjurjo	National Nurses United	Chicago
10.	Daniel Ritter	National Nurses United	Chicago
11.	Tracy Kurowski	Concerned Citizen	Chicago
12.	Carla Lipsey	National Nurses United	Matteson
13.	Rolanda	Concerned Citizen	Chicago
14.	Elaine Mister	National Nurses United	Chicago
15.	Kathi Franklin, President	Access to Care	Westchester
16.	Michelle Murray, LCSW	Retired Morton East Social Worker	Chicago
17.	Pauline N. Vrettos	The Children's Center of Cicero and Berwyn	Berwyn
18.	Martha Rodolfo	Concerned Citizen	Chicago
19.	Giudi Weiss	Illinois Single-Payer Coalition (but speaking for myself)	Chicago
20.	Mattie Newsom	NNO	Country Club Hills
21.	Cincerlyn Lewis	NNU	Chicago
22.	Laura Sabransky	(None)	Chicago
23.	Dr. Erin Kelly	Morton High School	Cicero
24.	Matthew Glimco	Morton East High School	Cicero
25.	Susan Sparrey-Fischer	NNU	Asheville
26.	Claudia Alvarez	Morton East High School	Cicero
27.	Melanie Duke	Concerned Citizen	Cicero
28.	Jasmine Hosley	J Sterling Morton East High School	Cicero
29.	Rosalba Hernandez	Morton East High School	Cicero
30.	Mitzi Rosales	Concerned Citizen	Chicago
31.	Roberto Hernandez	Freshman Center	Cicero
32.	Meg Hefty	Sarah's Inn	Forest Park
33.	Patrishia O'Neill	Morton East	Cicero
34.	Linda Meenan	HUB Ministries	Lincolnwood
35.	Michelle Ramirez	Community member	Cicero

#1

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020 11:33:07 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 13, 2020 11:34:00 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:00:52  
**IP Address:** 74.199.37.237

---

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Maureen Keane
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60655

---

Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Please support the Cook County Budget for Black Lives during upcoming county budget negotiations.

Systems of policing and incarceration harm Black, Brown and poor communities.

Investing in people, not punishment, makes everyone safer.

The Cook County Budget for Black Lives would divest \$157 million from the Cook County Jail in order to reduce harm and invest tens of millions of dollars in good jobs, mental health care, safe housing, restorative justice, anti-violence programs and other resources that allow Black, Brown, and poor communities to thrive.

---

Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

---

#2

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 10:36:53 AM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 10:43:43 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:06:50  
**IP Address:** 98.206.121.220

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Henry  
**City/Town:** Oak Forest  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60452

---

**Q2**

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Operating 3 separate training academies and 2 separate in-service training academies for the Sheriff's Office is an antiquated practice that is also a triplication and duplication of funding, labor, resources and effort. It's time to move this area of county government into the 21st century.

---

**Q3**

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

---

#3

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 4:00:28 PM  
**Last Modified:** Thursday, October 15, 2020 4:02:54 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:25  
**IP Address:** 73.168.176.238

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	<b>Richard LoPresti</b>
Organization (if any):	<b>Holy Remnant of God</b>
City/Town:	<b>Chicago</b>
State:	<b>IL</b>

---

**Q2**

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

This letter is to address concerns regarding ongoing discussions to reduce the budget of the Cook County Sheriff. I am a religious volunteer with Holy Remnant of God. I have been a part of a team that has conducted religious services in many areas of the jail for thirteen years. We have helped thousands of people have a life-changing encounter with God. Some of them are now members of the local congregation I am part of, and I can say that they are stabilized, productive members of the community. They have started families, ministries, and careers, and have stayed out of trouble with the law and out of jail since. However, it is now a concern that if the Sheriff's Department budget is cut, they will cut this important program due to staffing and other issues. I urgently ask that you consider the impact that budget cuts would have on such programs and support these efforts to help change the lives of the incarcerated. Thank you.

---

**Q3**

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---

#4

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 1:32:23 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 1:35:56 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:32  
**IP Address:** 173.165.72.81

---

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Maurice Lemon
Organization (if any):	Access to Care
City/Town:	Westchester
State:	IL
ZIP:	60154

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

I am writing today to thank you for your support of the Access to Care program and to urge you to continue that support in the 2021 budget. I am Dr. Maurice Lemon, past Chairman of the Board for the Access to Care program. I have served on the Access to Care Board for over 20 years.

The need for high quality primary health care for residents of Cook County has never been greater, despite the Affordable Care Act and expansion in coverage. The effects of the current COVID 19 Pandemic have had disproportionate effects on lower income residents of Cook County, who are those served by Access to Care.

Health care access continues to be a challenge for many in Cook County. The recent study from the Kaiser Family Foundation found that, even after implementation of the Affordable Care Act, there are still about 500,000 uninsured in Cook County- 300,000 in the City and 200,000 in suburban Cook County. As someone who worked at Cook County and then Stroger Hospital for over 25 years, serving as Hospital Medical Director and in other roles, I know that Cook County Health and Hospital System can't meet the demand for care from all those in need. This has been and is still the case in suburban Cook County where few brick and mortar County clinics exist and access to health care services can be extremely difficult.

Now you know that Access to Care screens every potential client and refers those eligible to CountyCare or other potential insurers. We only provide care to uninsured residents. As you may know, the way Access to Care works is by contracting with local primary care providers who, for very little remuneration, essentially volunteer their time to serve Access to Care members. Because of their volunteerism, we are able to assign members of Access to Care to a primary care physician in their own community who will see these clients regularly. Meanwhile, Access to Care supports the cost of pharmacy, lab, x-ray and other services.

The diagnoses of our clients are heavily weighted to chronic diseases, including diabetes, hypertension and others. This puts them into the most vulnerable for COVID 19 infection/complications, as well as other chronic health problems.

As a primary care physician myself, I know that this care provides the support necessary to manage and control their illnesses. By keeping members healthy and out of the emergency room, they can continue to work, take care of their families and continue to be productive Cook County residents. During the current Pandemic, this has never been more true. Therefore, I urge you to continue your support for ATC.

Thank you.

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

#5

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:09:14 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:11:52 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:38  
**IP Address:** 99.133.144.12

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** John Hieronymus, RN  
**Organization (if any):** National Nurses United/NNOC  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60616

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Shutting down cook county health services in the middle of a pandemic while spending money to keep open jails is an act of racial violence. Black Lives Matter

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---

#6

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:04:06 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:17:44 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:13:37  
**IP Address:** 173.71.205.29

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Erin Tucker  
**Organization (if any):** National Nurses United  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Item #19-6826 PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT Number: 11

The Cook County Budget closes the ER at Provident Hospital, which logged nearly 29,000 visits in 2019. West Lake Hospital logged thousands of ER visits before it closed. Mercy Hospital, which logged 51,000 ER visits in 2019 is slated to close in 2021. Where are all these patients supposed to go?

It is doubtful University of Chicago could absorb that kind of increase of patients each year. As a Chicago Tribune investigation found that University of Chicago Medical Center was on Diversion, 17 percent of the time over a 2.5 year period.

Studies show that when emergency rooms close, the death rate at nearby hospitals increases by 5 percent overall. For those patients suffering a heart attack, stroke, or sepsis, the rate of death increases to 15 percent.

Preckwinkle's move to close Provident Hospital's emergency room will not only deprive the most vulnerable of a vital emergency resource, it paves a clear path for the closure of the facility which is authorized for 85 medical surgical and six intensive care unit beds.

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---



#7

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:05:19 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:18:41 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:13:21  
**IP Address:** 24.1.226.86

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Rukiya Griffin  
**Organization (if any):** National Nurses United (NNU)  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60637

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Proposed Amendment 19-6826. There is no way University of Chicago can absorb the population of patients which presented to Provident. We stay on red bed alerts for a daily high census, and I'm speaking from experience as a current RN at UCMC. This is a hospital that has served my community for many years and it will be the worst decision made to let a provider such as Provident close. Many families will be affected negatively.

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---

#8

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:13:34 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:19:02 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:05:27  
**IP Address:** 75.39.237.236

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** B. Thomas  
**Organization (if any):** NNU  
**State:** IL

---

**Q2**

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

No respect for pertinent history, no respect for the community's health and no respect for the basic needs of people of color. Business models do not work when dealing with human lives. So much for black lives mattering.

---

**Q3**

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---

#9

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:05:21 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:19:30 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:14:09  
**IP Address:** 172.58.140.229

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Candace Sanjurjo
Organization (if any):	National Nurses United
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60639

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Item 19-6826 Proposed budget amendment

Closure of Provident Hospital's emergency room will deprive vulnerable populations on Chicago's south side of accessible care during these unprecedented times... ESPECIALLY during a pandemic that does not appear to have an end in our near future. Please do not force our communities to be left abandoned, not now.. not ever

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

---

#10

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:04:40 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:19:52 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:15:11  
**IP Address:** 24.12.105.252

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Daniel Ritter
Organization (if any):	National Nurses United
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60618

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Item #19-6826 PROPOSED BUDGET AMENDMENT Number: 11

The Cook County Budget closes the ER at Provident Hospital, is highly irresponsible and risks the public health of our most vulnerable communities. With nearly 30,000 visits to the Provident ER and other Hospitals such as Mercy closing their doors. Who is supposed to care for these patients?

It is doubtful University of Chicago could absorb that kind of an increase of each year. As a Chicago Tribune investigation found that University of Chicago Medical Center was on diversion, 17 percent of the time over a 2 ½- year period.

I also object to President Preckwinkle's claim that they are expanding services at Provident which is remarkably misleading. If you close the ER, these clinics will not provide care to those who do not have the means to access clinics that normally require the referral of a primary care physician. Many of these folks needs a local ER within walking distance to their homes because they simply don't the means to access other types of healthcare.

Preckwinkle's move to close Provident Hospital's emergency room will not only deprive the most vulnerable of a vital emergency resource, it paves a clear path for the closure of the facility which is authorized for 85 medical surgical and six intensive care unit beds.

---

**Q3**

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---

#11

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:05:12 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:20:09 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:14:56  
**IP Address:** 98.206.144.123

---

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Tracy Kurowski
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60609

---

Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

The cuts to public health care on the South Side of Chicago during a deadly pandemic are irresponsible. The loss of a historic hospital in an area that is already underserved will further burden the remaining facilities. Shifting care from a local hospital to consolidated care several miles away will likely cause indigent and other patients without access to private transportation to stop seeking care. Please consider raising my taxes instead. I'd gladly pay an additional \$500/year to help. Multiply that by 3 million Chicagoans could fund this program. Divert moneys from incarceration, progressively tax businesses, etc. There are solutions if you have the will. Do not use this pandemic to close critically needed services.

---

Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

---

# #12

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:05:15 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:20:20 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:15:05  
**IP Address:** 71.201.136.210

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Carla Lipsey
Organization (if any):	National Nurses United
City/Town:	Matteson
State:	IL
ZIP:	60443

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

195826- proposed budget amendment. It is impossible for the University of Chicago to absorb the increased amount of patients as a result of closing Provident hospital emergency room. The University of Chicago has diverted patients to Provident hospital when they were on bypass. The community will suffer a great loss and suffer from decreased access to care. The University of Chicago was on diversion 17 percent of the time over a 2.5 years

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

---

# #13

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:14:43 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:20:26 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:05:43  
**IP Address:** 73.110.236.145

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	<b>Rolanda</b>
City/Town:	<b>Chicago</b>
State:	<b>IL</b>
ZIP:	<b>60628</b>

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

#19-6826 Proposed budget amendment #11

CCH closures of Provident, Woodlawn Clinic along with Near south is a slap in the face of the underserved population on County Care insurance that help bring in revenues for CCH. The University of Chicago goes on bypass to keep from taking care of the poor. DDH mission talks about respecting and servicing the poor, but this does not seem to be true. Stop over paying CEO's and actually own up to your mission statement

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---



#14

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:06:51 PM  
**Last Modified:** Wednesday, October 21, 2020 7:46:13 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:39:22  
**IP Address:** 165.68.234.255

---

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Elaine Mister  
**Organization (if any):** National Nurses United  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60637

---

Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

#19-6826 Proposed Budget Amendment #11

Covid has exposed what nurses have known for some time that our patients suffer when institutions chose money over people, that health disparities increase when institutions chose money over people, and that our patients take longer to recover when institutions chose money over people. Closing Provident's ER and southside clinics only leads to the further suffering of a community. A Southside Community sought after during elections but often forgotten during the distribution of goods and services. Closing Provident's ER during a pandemic is a betrayal of the public's trust that gives lip service to "Black Lives Matter". The potential closing of Mercy leaves the University of Chicago as the only option. University of Chicago is at capacity now and will not be able to meet this increase capacity. Therefore, this will lead to sicker patients requiring more resources. I implore you to get creative to find other options to meet your budget but not on the backs of the poor!

---

Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

---

#15

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Friday, October 23, 2020 12:23:53 PM  
**Last Modified:** Friday, October 23, 2020 12:26:02 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:09  
**IP Address:** 173.165.72.81

---

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Kathi Franklin, President
Organization (if any):	Access to Care
City/Town:	Westchester
State:	IL
ZIP:	60154

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

October 29, 2020

I am Kathi Franklin, President of Access to Care. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I want to thank you for your generous support of the Access to Care program and to urge you to continue funding Access to Care in the 2020/21 budget.

Access to Care has been providing access to primary health care services to low income, uninsured and under insured residents of suburban Cook County and northwest Chicago for over 30 years. We are a community-based program with over 600 physicians who volunteer their time to serve Access to Care members in the communities where Access to Care members live. Access to Care members may have an unlimited number of office visits to their Access to Care doctor for a \$5 co-pay. They are also able to get an unlimited number of routine lab tests and x-rays for a \$5 co-pay and prescription medications for \$15-\$40 co-pays.

Because we use existing infrastructure and a network of donated and discounted services, Access to Care is very cost efficient. We are able to provide an unlimited number of physician office visits, lab tests, x-rays and prescription drugs for only \$650 a year per person. Last year, Access to Care received donated services and discounts amounting to about \$5,000,000.

Access to Care members are not eligible for CountyCare. (We actively direct people to CountyCare if they are eligible for it.) Access to Care was designed to capture the people who "fall between the cracks". About half of our members are immigrants who are not eligible for CountyCare either because they have not been in the Country long enough or because they are undocumented. Access to Care members may have insurance with a high deductible but, most are uninsured.

Many times when members come to us, they have been without medical care for a long time, often years. So, they tend to be much more ill than the general population. Most of our members are chronically ill with multiple disease states. This also puts them in a high-risk category for poor outcomes should they become infected with Covid-19. Our most frequent diagnoses are diabetes and hypertension and cardiovascular disease. About a quarter of Access to Care members are diagnosed with diabetes compared to about six percent of the general population.

Through Access to Care they are able to manage their illness so that they can continue to work and take care of their families.

Last year, you funded Access to Care through an amendment that stated that "barring extraordinary circumstances" that this would be the last year of funding for Access to Care. We are indeed in the middle of extraordinary circumstances with this pandemic. Covid-19 has clearly demonstrated the need for health care services and Access to Care in the community that is most at risk. I respectfully request your consideration for funding in the 2020/21 fiscal year.

Thank you.

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

#16

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, October 26, 2020 3:01:48 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, October 26, 2020 3:42:52 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:41:04  
**IP Address:** 24.15.213.191

---

Page 1

Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Michelle Murray, LCSW
Organization (if any):	Retired Morton East Social Worker
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60657

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Dear Commissioners and President of the Cook County Board,

I am writing you all to beg you to please DO NOT close the Morton East School Base Clinic! The Clinic has been essential to the students and community since 1996.

The clinic has served students with HIV, pregnancies, STD's, eating disorders, depression, ADHD, diabetes.....just to mention a few.

I have been a School Social Worker at Morton East High School since 1985. I have worked closely with the clinic since it opened. I could not have done my job without the support of the clinic. There are so many needs of adolescents that are treated at the clinic. It is a comprehensive clinic that looks at the whole student. The clinic has been imperative in referring students and their families to services at County.

The clinic is supported by the school and community. Since the clinic has opened its doors we have lowered the drop out rate and reduce absenteeism through out the 201 District. WE attribute this to the clinic and the services it provides to our students and families.

The clinic will not turn any student away. The clinic has become the primary care for students and graduates of District 201 who now bring their own children to the clinic. The clinic also provides important care to our day care center. The mental health services that the clinic provides too our student body is of excellent quality!

The loss of this clinic would be critical to the students, families and community! Please reconsider closing this clinic. I fear what may happen to the students, families and community if they were to loose the clinic. In addition the County has relocated the Cicero Health Center to North Riverside once again leaving Cicero a health desert. I feel we are going backward....this was the initial reason to fight so hard for a school base clinic due to NO services to the Cicero Residents prior to 1996.

Lastly, we are in the middle of a pandemic! Is really now the time the County wants to eliminate a health center which serves a community who has sky rocketing positivity rates?

The need to provide health services to adolescents, families and the community of Cicero is imperative!

Please do not close the doors on us!

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michelle Murray, LCSW  
Retired School Social Worker

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

#17

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, October 26, 2020 3:37:58 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, October 26, 2020 3:43:00 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:05:02  
**IP Address:** 73.22.216.143

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Pauline N. Vrettos
Organization (if any):	The Children's Center of Cicero and Berwyn
City/Town:	Berwyn
State:	IL
ZIP:	60402

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

I submitted a statement the last time - is it available?

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

---

#18

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:01:57 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:03:05 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:01:07  
**IP Address:** 207.237.248.237

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	<b>Martha Rodolfo</b>
City/Town:	<b>Chicago</b>
State:	<b>IL</b>
ZIP:	<b>60642</b>

---

**Q2**

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

I can't imagine why you'd think that shutting and reducing healthcare is smart during Covid. Restore the healthcare budget.

---

**Q3**

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---

#19

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:04:55 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:11:25 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:06:29  
**IP Address:** 108.69.74.122

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Giudi Weiss
Organization (if any):	Illinois Single-Payer Coalition (but speaking for myself)
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60637

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Unfortunately, in our fragmented and inadequate health care system, there is a great need for Emergency Rooms -- especially in neighborhoods like Bronzeville, where chronic diseases, inadequately treated, too often require emergency care. There is no slack that can accommodate the tens of thousands of patients who use the ER at Provident Hospital. These are my neighbors whose lives you are putting at risk -- not to mention my own.

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

---



#20

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:03:34 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:12:47 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:09:13  
**IP Address:** 71.194.234.35

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Mattie Newsom
Organization (if any):	NNO
City/Town:	Country Club Hills
State:	IL
ZIP:	60478

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Please stop killing the people who go to Mercy Hospital in search for medical treatment. As tax payers these people deserve a hospital in their community and some of the convenience that wealthy people are given. It's sad how greed supersedes life.

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---

#21

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:25:03 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:39:38 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:14:34  
**IP Address:** 24.13.204.57

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Cincerlyn Lewis
Organization (if any):	NNU
City/Town:	Chicago
ZIP:	60619

---

**Q2**

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

I am a cook county resident. I also work as a register nurse at a university of Chicago hospital. I am deeply disturbed by the planned budget cuts to Provident Hospital. The Community based services the ER provides are essential. This ER gives care to people that would otherwise get lost in the healthcare system. They have limited resources and depend on this Community ER. Please reconsider the proposed budget cuts and find away to keep the Provident Hospital ER open to services its people.

---

**Q3**

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---

#22

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Monday, October 26, 2020 9:44:41 PM  
**Last Modified:** Monday, October 26, 2020 10:22:49 PM  
**Time Spent:** 00:38:07  
**IP Address:** 71.239.45.128

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Laura Sabransky  
**Organization (if any):** (None)  
**City/Town:** Chicago  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60640

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

I am a 30-year resident of Chicago and property taxpayer. I was a delegate to Democratic National Convention in 2016. I have watched as Democratic Party elected officials have continually cut health care services in "sacrifice zones" in our city and county...in the same neighborhoods where Black and Brown people experience more violence and pollution than in white areas of the city. We unfortunately have gotten used to broken campaign promises to redistribute wealth and end austerity politics, but still, during a pandemic, I would have thought that health care for ALL Chicagoans would become a priority. Black and Brown people are already not getting the care they need to fight COVID and are suffering and dying at a much higher rate than white people. Yet President Preckwinkle is proposing to cut health care even more. We expect our Democratic Party elected officials to take COVID seriously and do everything they can to fund health care services that will reduce the spread of COVID, especially in communities that are experiencing it the most. President Preckwinkle wears a mask at press conferences. That's the right thing to do, to protect herself and others from COVID. Yet if her proposed cuts to Provident Hospital are approved, the County Board puts the most vulnerable in our city at even more risk, as well as contributes to the spread of COVID. It would be irresponsible and reckless for County Board Commissioners to approve her cuts. Vote NO on President Preckwinkle's cuts to Provident.

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

#23

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:11:09 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:14:44 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:35  
**IP Address:** 64.107.167.4

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Dr. Erin Kelly
Organization (if any):	Morton High School
City/Town:	Cicero
State:	IL
ZIP:	60640

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

The clinic at Morton East High School serves several students and people in the neighboring community who are also some of the most vulnerable. It would be a disservice to our students and their families if the clinic was removed from our building. Healthcare should be available to all, not just those who benefit from their privilege.

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

---

#24

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:18:28 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:26:22 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:07:54  
**IP Address:** 207.242.81.4

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Matthew Glimco
Organization (if any):	Morton East High School
City/Town:	Cicero
State:	IL
ZIP:	60804

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

My name is Matthew Glimco and I work as a school counselor. From my fourteen years as a counselor, I have seen the demand for counseling services triple. I sincerely believe depression among teens will be the biggest epidemic since obesity. As a counselor, it is difficult to reach all children as our caseload is 340 students each, not to mention other administrative and academic duties. The clinic has been a savior at Morton East during these difficult times.

I personally have recommended many students to the clinic. The clinic will always follow through to get them the services they need. I have worked extensively with Dr. Gregory Lewis. I have sent him the kids that no other psychologists could help. Often, they would be so depressed, they were not functioning. Dr. Lewis was able to work with them, get them back in school, and on there way to graduation. Dr. Lewis and the clinic are a huge part in the success of Morton East and the community.

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---

#25

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 7:29:38 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:28:45 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:59:07  
**IP Address:** 71.81.215.56

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Susan Sparrey-Fischer  
**Organization (if any):** NNU  
**City/Town:** Asheville  
**State:** NC  
**ZIP:** 28704

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Dear Cook County Board Members,

My name is Susan Sparrey Fischer. My father was an educator and play ground teacher for many years at Scanlan Elementary. He witnessed back then the services slashed to the black community he taught in. He had to fight often to have supplies and equipment needed to do his job.

I'm a RN, currently living in a rural area of North Carolina. We have our own battles fighting to stop the closing rural hospitals and clinics that serve the rural white and black poor community.

This is no different than what you are planing on doing to Provident hospital ER with the exception it will affect the Latinx and Black community.

Healthcare workers have been battling a "Covid19 War" since March of this year.

SEVENTY FIVE PECENT of Covid19 patients in Cook County are Black/Latinx population.

In 2019 Provident ER visits totaled almost 29,000 WITHOUT a pandemic!

On top of it Mercy Hospital is slated to close in 2021 of which their ER treats over 50,000 patients per year!

Eighty THOUSAND people will have to seek emergency services at the University of Chicago Medical Center and Strogers.

It is well documented in many journals of medicine that increase time it takes to receive a patient into the ER can greatly increase their mortality rates twofolds.

Please DO NOT close Provident ER to a non urgent care type clinic.

Our poor Black and Latinx Community will suffer greatly.

Sincerely, Susan Sparrey Fischer

**Q3**

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---

#26

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:22:18 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:31:29 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:09:10  
**IP Address:** 207.242.81.4

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Claudia Alvarez
Organization (if any):	Morton East High School
City/Town:	Cicero
State:	IL
ZIP:	60804

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Attachment sent to [cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov).

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

---



#27

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:23:46 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:31:50 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:08:04  
**IP Address:** 24.13.35.160

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Melanie Duke
City/Town:	Cicero
State:	IL
ZIP:	60804

---

**Q2**

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

The clinic at Morton East High School should not be closed. It was opened because of the lack of community health care access and being identified as a highly underinsured population with high percentages of students being unable to obtain state-required physicals and immunizations. Things haven't gotten better and if anything, need for a school-based clinic has grown. Please don't close the clinic.

---

**Q3**

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

---

#28

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:46:30 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:48:34 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:02:03  
**IP Address:** 207.242.81.4

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Jasmine Hosley  
**Organization (if any):** J Sterling Morton East High School  
**City/Town:** Cicero  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60804

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

CCHB Meeting: Morton East Adolescent Health Center of Cook County Health

Greetings,

My name is Jasmine, and I am in support of keeping the Morton East Adolescent Health Center open. I am one of the nurses at Morton East High School, and for the past 3 years I've got to witness just how much the students and community rely on the school-based clinic. Although this is a separate entity from the Nurse's Office, we often are able to effectively collaborate and provide multiple services for our students, their families, and the Cicero community as a whole. The School Based Clinic is vital, and the services they offer/ provide are essential for the sustainability of many of our students (ie. vaccinations, physicals, pregnancy testing and referrals, STI testing, insurance information, mental health/wellness, etc.). Mental health is especially important as it becomes more and more apparent that the students/community are struggling with receiving appropriate care for problems such as depression, grief, trauma or anxiety. Leaving this area without the resources the Clinic provides will be detrimental to the school, students, families, and the community in its entirety.

The nurse's office has personally benefited from having the on-site Adolescent Center. It makes for a smoother transition when referring students and getting them the necessary treatment. This then builds a better rapport amongst us, as they feel safe and confident that we were able to get them help. Their convenient location makes a world of difference as well, because many students may not have easy access to transportation to travel outside of their surrounding area. The employees (from clerical, Nurse Practitioners, Certified Medical Assistants, Social Worker, to the Physicians) are also a wealth of knowledge and a valuable asset to all.

The Morton East SBHC is an important part of our community, as is preserving the mental, emotional, and physical health of its members. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of their continuity.

**Q3**

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---

#29

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:47:18 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:53:28 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:06:09  
**IP Address:** 69.246.226.214

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Rosalba Hernandez  
**Organization (if any):** Morton East High School  
**City/Town:** Cicero  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60804

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Hello, my name is Rosalba Hernandez. I am the school nurse at Morton East High School and an employee of District 201 for over 6 years. I am writing in support of keeping Morton Clinic with Cook County Health. As a school nurse I work very closely with the clinic and refer medically and mentally ill complex students to the clinic. The school and community trust the staff at Cook County Health (CCH). The Morton Behavior Health Team there works closely with CCH's psychiatrist to prevent a student from being hospitalized. We trust that the medical team at CCH will provide the best quality care regardless of a patient's ability to pay or health insurance. These youth and their communities have gone through enormous trauma. Our youth are experiencing increase anxiety, depression, and suicide rates. Cook County has stated that they want to pass this clinic over to other's that specialize in Adolescents but yet Cook County has been in Morton for over 20 years. The School Staff knows that Cook County is better equipped to handle the needs of our youth through their comprehensive care and ability to provide services regardless of a family's income, insurance status, and immigration status. The school and community fears that other FQHCs do not have the resources and commitment to be able to sustain the long-term clinical services our families and students need.

Cicero has been hit extremely hard during this pandemic with high Covid Rates, unemployment, high suicide rates among other significant health disparities. While Other FQHC school-based health centers remained closed during the early stages of the pandemic, Morton remained open. This commitment and ability to address and sustain our community is the reason why we have stood by CCH's Morton Clinic through three threats of closures!

CCH has already pulled out of Cicero when they moved their Ambulatory clinic to North Riverside. Please do not continue to disinvest in our community. Keep Morton fully operated through Cook County Health.

**Q3**

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---

#30

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:50:08 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:53:39 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:30  
**IP Address:** 108.245.245.236

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Mitzi Rosales
City/Town:	Chicago
State:	IL
ZIP:	60914

---

**Q2**

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

The clinic gave me a lot of great resources when by making a mental health care professional available to me during my junior year of high school. No charge was made to me and the therapist was great.

---

**Q3**

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

---

#31

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:56:26 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 8:57:11 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:00:44  
**IP Address:** 69.246.226.214

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

**Witness Name:** Roberto Hernandez  
**Organization (if any):** Freshman Center  
**City/Town:** Cicero  
**State:** IL  
**ZIP:** 60804

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

My name is ROBERTO, and I am a teacher and coach at Morton East High school. I have referred countless students in need of medical and behavior health services to the Morton Clinic. I was extremely disappointed to hear that Cook County Health is no longer interested in operating Morton Clinic. Although they promise that other health centers will take over, I can't help and wonder where is Cook County's investment in our youth? These Youth and their communities have gone through enormous trauma. Our youth are experiencing increase anxiety, depression, and suicide rates. Cook County has stated that they want to pass this clinic over to other's that specialize in Adolescents but yet Cook County has been in Morton for over 20 years. The School Staff knows that Cook County is better equipped to handle the needs of our youth through their comprehensive care and ability to provide services regardless of a family's income, insurance status, and immigration status. During this vulnerable period, our school community is not ready for Cook County to pull away and hand over to another health center. I ask Cook County Leadership to not turn their back on our youth and disadvantaged community. Please keep the Morton Clinic in the budget.

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

#32

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 9:55:57 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 9:59:35 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:03:38  
**IP Address:** 99.138.109.216

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Meg Hefty
Organization (if any):	Sarah's Inn
City/Town:	Forest Park
State:	IL
ZIP:	60130

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Hello,  
Sarah's Inn has been serving Cicero for 40 years and this clinic has been an important part of our clients' lives. It provides quick access to care for youth and connection to services such as ours. Having been highly involved in the Cicero Community Collaborative in the last few years, it has become even more evident on how important the work is of this clinic to this community (especially as an underserved community).

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

---



#33

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 9:56:38 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 10:00:42 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:04:04  
**IP Address:** 207.242.81.4

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Patrisha O'Neill
Organization (if any):	Morton East
City/Town:	Cicero
State:	IL
ZIP:	60804

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

I believe the school-based clinic literally saved the life of one on my students. There she was able to receive and psychological care she otherwise would NOT have access to. Our students do not often seek help outside of the community. This resource has been invaluable to not this one student, but so many in my 20 year career at Morton.

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

---

#34

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 9:41:44 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 10:28:39 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:46:54  
**IP Address:** 76.29.30.22

---

Page 1

**Q1**

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Linda Meenan
Organization (if any):	HUB Ministries
City/Town:	Lincolnwood
State:	IL
ZIP:	60712

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

Dear President Preckwinkle,

The following comments are in regard to the ongoing discussions regarding "defunding the police".

HUB Ministries, where I serve, has partnered with the Office of Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart to provide faith based services for citizens being detained in Cook the County Jail from the Chicagoland community. I have served in several different ministries in this capacity since 2016.

This relationship with Sheriff Tom Dart has allowed us to help citizens that could not have otherwise been reached.

Our time with the girls have helped women to forgive their past, have faith to face their problems without fear and find practical answers by applying the gospel of Jesus Christ to their lives. Using music, teachings from scripture and our personal experiences of overcoming our life failures have encouraged many to make positive decisions. We have seen many times a very depressing atmosphere transform into smiling faces and hope. The officers have often thanked us for coming and told us our visits have made a significant difference for the better.

If you and the Cook County Commissioners vote to "defund" or reduce funds to the Office of the Cook County Sheriff, you will be defunding this important resource that has been so effective that HUB Ministries provides.

Thank you for taking time to consider this additional information.

Respectfully,

Linda Meenan  
HUB Ministries

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

**I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.**

#35

COMPLETE

**Collector:** Web Link 1 (Web Link)  
**Started:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 11:29:55 AM  
**Last Modified:** Tuesday, October 27, 2020 11:39:56 AM  
**Time Spent:** 00:10:01  
**IP Address:** 73.73.3.69

---

Page 1

## Q1

Please provide some basic information

Witness Name:	Michelle Ramirez
Organization (if any):	Community member
City/Town:	Cicero
State:	IL
ZIP:	60804

---

## Q2

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](mailto:cookcounty.board@cookcountyil.gov)

As part of the Cicero community and Morton alumni, I ask that our health clinic continue to be funded as is. It is a gem in our community and it would be a great disservice if it not kept. The services offered are greatly needed as they serve our community in great numbers. Do not be part of the reason why our children and community members lack resources. We are the community and we are here to vocalize what our community member should have access too. Changes that occur in our community should always have community input.

---

## Q3

Acknowledgement of submitting written testimony only

I understand that by submitting written comments here, I am not signing up to speak live (virtually) at the hearing. I am only submitting written comments to be posted online as part of the official record.

---