Introduction

In 1835, four years after Cook County Government was incorporated, the first health services, The Public Alms House for the poor, was established. Now, 165 years later, this has evolved into the Cook County Bureau of Health Services, an innovative, cost-efficient system of integrated healthcare. Today, it is the second largest division of Cook County Government and one of the largest public health systems in the country, caring for more than 1.5 million people every year.

From that day when the County first became responsible for ministering to the sick poor, we have taken our charge very seriously. And, as you’ll see in this exhibit, we have attracted many of the pioneers of medicine whose work earned Cook County Hospital and Provident Hospital reputations for professional excellence around the world.

This exhibit recognizes the milestones that so richly represent the extraordinary role that Cook County Government has played in the delivery of healthcare services and it celebrates the vital role the Cook County Bureau of Health Services plays as the architect of such a distinguished history.

This exhibit also honors the healthcare providers who have given of their time and effort, and those that continue to work today to meet the healthcare needs of the residents of Cook County. To all the healthcare professionals who have been a part of our distinguished history, to those who continue to work tirelessly to ensure that healthcare is available and accessible to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay, we extend our deep appreciation and our gratitude for a job well done.
1835
In compliance with an Illinois law, the County opened a small almshouse on a downtown public square where the poor and the sick were housed together.

1836
Twenty-three-year-old Dr. Daniel Brainard rode into town and quickly developed a reputation as a skilled physician and surgeon. Trained in New York, he founded Rush Medical College and championed Tippecanoe Hall, a forerunner to County County Hospital. Dr. Brainard was among the first physicians in the country to practice "painless surgery" by using ether as an anesthetic. He believed science, like religion should be taught without a price.

1847
Overwhelmed by epidemics of scarlet fever and smallpox, city and county officials paid $846 to convert a warehouse at Kinzie and State Streets into a makeshift hospital known as Tippecanoe Hall. Rather than practicing isolation, one hundred patients with various contagious diseases were crammed together in a small space creating an aroma that was reported to be "pungent and particularly unpleasant". In 1851 county officials contracted with a local farmer to move some residents to a poor farm now known as 6500 West Irving Park Road which later became State Mental Hospital.
Drs George Amerman and Joseph Ross are often considered the godfathers of Cook County Hospital. After leading an energetic crusade for a public hospital, they leased a building at 18th and Arnold and contracted with the County to care for the sick poor.

The federal government converted the facilities to a military hospital to care for Civil War casualties and renamed it Desmarres Eye and Ear Hospital. Following the war, Drs. Amerman and Ross resumed management and became staunch advocates of a larger, permanent facility to “care of the indigent poor” and for “the clinical instruction of students”. This hospital would evolve to become Cook County Hospital.
The Old Cook County Hospital Opens at 18th and Arnold Streets

During the 1850s, Chicago's population grew from 29,000 to 100,000 and local officials struggled to meet the medical needs of the indigent. The County renovated a closed institution which became known as Old Cook County Hospital. Initially, the County Board agreed to spend $10,000 on care of the sick at the hospital, but as a result of the increasing number of patients, by the fourth year the cost rose to $30,000 a year. Mr. B. F. Chase, who had been the warden at the poorhouse, was transferred to the hospital to serve as the first warden of Cook County Hospital.

- The first patient seen at the new hospital was a German girl, transferred from the poorhouse, who had an abscessed hand.
- The first patient admitted to the County Hospital was a Danish immigrant afflicted with cholera. This man died, and the epidemic spread to the hospital workers.
- The first operation was a leg amputation performed by Dr. George Amerman on a fifty-three year old sailor with a chronic infection of his tibia. The patient survived.

1862

Civil War hospital

The federal government converted the facilities to a military hospital to care for Civil War casualties and renamed it Desmarras Eye and Ear Hospital. Following the war, Drs. Amerman and Ross resumed management and became staunch advocates of a larger, permanent facility to "care of the indigent poor" and for "the clinical instruction of students."

1866

Dr. Nils Quales, First Cook County Intern

Dr. Nils I. Quales, a graduate of Rush Medical College, was the first Cook County intern. Dr. Quales was born in Norway and was a veterinary surgeon, before emigrating to America in 1859. During the Civil War, he was a regular soldier in the Union Army. After his internship, he was appointed as the City Physician of Chicago. Later, he went on to practice for many years in the Wicker Park area of the City. During the Chicago Fire in 1871, he, and his wife, commandeered an express wagon and rescued sixty-seven men from the Marine Hospital. In 1910, the King of Norway made him a Knight of Olaf, in recognition of his outstanding work. Dr. Quales died at the age of eighty-three in 1914.
We had trouble in the Women's Ward with the rats knocking off the codliver oil bottles in order to break the bottle and get to the contents.

Dr. E. Fletcher Ingals, 1871
First Woman Intern at Cook County Hospital

Mary Elizabeth Bates, a graduate of the Women’s Medical College of Chicago, (later, Northwestern University Medical School) was the first female intern at Cook County Hospital. She taught at Women’s Medical College, and later moved to Denver where she served as a general practitioner and advocate for women’s and children’s rights.

An operating room at Cook County Hospital.

For those who could afford it, surgical procedures were carried out in private residences. At the time, few hospitals had more equipment than a physician possessed in his bag or at his office.

In response to charges that nurses of the time were often women of loose morals and “tramps that steal the patients’ food,” Dr Sarah Hackett Stevenson launched the Illinois Training School for Nurses. Prior to that time, patients usually men with lengthy hospital stays were often considered the best nurse candidates.
Young Cook County doctors filled the teaching amphitheater to hear such giants of medicine as Dr. Christian Fenger discuss the latest antiseptic techniques and Dr. Nicholas Senn, the author of 23 books on surgery, share his insight into new procedures.

1893
Nurses’ training program at Provident Hospital started as a result of having no nurse training program that admitted African-American women.

1896
Cook County’s medical facilities in the 1880s were generally regarded as the best designed in the country.
Dr. Joseph B. DeLee

Interned at CCH in 1891, and witnessed many deaths during childbirth. His determination to improve the practice of obstetrics led to many improvements in home deliveries, to the founding of the University of Chicago Lying-In Hospital, and better standards of obstetric care. When Dr. DeLee died in 1942, he had achieved his objective of making childbirth safer for women in Chicago.
Dr. Daniel Hale Williams was the first person to successfully operate on the human heart. Dr. Williams assisted in the establishment of nearly 40 hospitals for black patients, and founding several medical organizations. In 1913, he was elected a charter member of the American College of Surgeons, becoming its first black member.
Austin Maurice Curtis was the first intern of the newly established Provident Hospital and the first African-American to join the medical staff of Cook County Hospital. He later served as Professor of Surgery at Howard University School of Medicine.
Dr. Karl Meyer was one of the founders of the Hektoen Institute for Medical Research, the Cook County Hospital Graduate School of Medicine, and the International College of Surgeons. He was also a member of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. During Dr. Meyer’s years as Cook County Hospital’s Medical Superintendent, the hospital became a leading teaching hospital, developed the first blood bank and the first trauma unit in the U.S., and one of the finest burn units. He was a leading surgeon having performed over 100,000 operations during his career as well as one of the first successful stomach resections (1933). Dr. Meyer also developed surgical techniques for the treatment of stomach ulcers.

In 1953, Cook County Hospital’s new house staff residence hall was named in his honor. Dr. Meyer, until he retired in 1967, led Cook County Hospital in a period of breakthrough medical research and training of physicians.
In 1916, the main hospital building was completed at its present location. The Hospital was then a complex of 2,7000 beds. The main hospital was eight-stories high and the building covered an entire block, bounded by Harrison, Polk, Wood and Wolcott Streets.

The main floor consisted of the lobby, pharmacy, admitting department and offices.
1918

An influenza epidemic filled Cook County Hospital to capacity, killed 51 million people worldwide, 550,000 in the U.S. and 520 people in Chicago. Police were ordered to arrest anyone sneezing without covering their mouth.
1920s
In keeping with the treatment of the day, tuberculosis patients young and old were isolated from the general population and sent to the Oak Forest facilities where agricultural programs encouraged self-sufficiency.

1928
The Oak Forest Hospital campus included a school for young tuberculosis patients.

1929
Under Dr. Richard Jaffe’s leadership, Cook County Hospital’s pathology department became known as the best one in the country. Considered a brilliant author and lecturer, Dr. Jaffe produced 119 publications and his Thursday morning pathology conferences attracted house staff, medical students and practicing physicians from throughout the Midwest.
Cook County’s Oak Forest Infirmary reached a population high of 4,292 patients including 500 with tuberculosis. Patients were encouraged to be self-supporting and to prepare for reentry into society by attending sewing, cooking and gardening classes.
Dr. Bernard Fantus, the first of the outstanding doctors of the 20th century, was an intern at Cook County Hospital in the class of 1900. One of his most notable accomplishments was the development of the world’s first blood bank at Cook County Hospital in 1937.
1937
The first blood bank in America was started by Dr. Bernard Fantus on March 15, 1937 at Cook County Hospital.

1933
Greater Provident Hospital and Training School, 1933-1982. Provident Hospital purchased and renovated the building previously owned by Chicago Lying-In Hospital, at 436 E. 51st Street, a 200-bed facility.

1935
A growing nursing shortage prompted county officials to aggressively recruit nurse candidates and build a 17-story dormitory.
As a result of increased overcrowding, and difficulty in following up on patients after discharge from County Hospital, the County purchased the old West Side Hospital, located one block away from Cook County Hospital. This building was converted into an outpatient clinic and named after Dr. Bernard Fantus, who established the first blood bank in the United States at Cook County Hospital in 1937.

In 1943, the County purchased the McCormick Institute for Infectious Diseases for conversion into a hospital laboratory, and for the newly formed Hektoen Institute for Medical Research. The Institute represented an attempt to augment County money with funds from government grants, and private donations, in order to support teaching and research.
Nearly 30 million babies were born during World War II - a foreshadowing of the baby boom following the war. The primary focus of the Cook County Department of Health during this time was to prevent and control communicable disease through immunization and education.

The control of tuberculosis continued to be a major goal of the Cook County Department of Health. The Department X-rayed 24,000 persons in suburban Cook County, recorded 350 new TB cases in 1948 and reported insufficient beds in Cook County to house all the afflicted.

Babies born weighing less than 5 1/2 pounds were classified as premature and whisked to Cook County Hospital in special incubators. The Department continued to battle polio, epilepsy, rheumatic fever, typhoid through outreach efforts that included immunizations, school health programs and educational seminars.
Edward A. Piszczek, M.D., M.P.H.
Director,
Cook County Department of Public Health

"The health of the community has been our motivating consideration. In the future we shall strive to meet our responsibility of protecting the community health through freedom from disease and by promoting optimum health for everyone."
1950s
The influx of new families into the suburbs and post-war babies into schools drastically increased suburban school enrollment. As a result, the Health Department changed its focus from the performance of direct services to providing advice and counsel to school personnel.

1957
An aggressive tuberculin testing program aimed at first and fifth graders helped researchers identify families with active TB.

1950s
Extensive vision, hearing and dental screenings were conducted throughout the County. A Dental Clinic on Wheels was launched to reach rural areas and corrective services made available for children 2-16 years of age.
A blood sample is collected for laboratory diagnosis to determine if an animal is infected with brucellosis.

The Department of Public Health launched a brucellosis eradication campaign to stem the disease which was communicated to humans through infected milk. A vigorous program of testing all cows in Cook County virtually wiped out the disease.
Cook County Department of Public Health leads the fight against polio helping Chicago to become one of the first U.S. cities to use the Salk vaccine. Several physical therapists were on staff to administer post-polio treatment.
Born in Norfolk, Virginia, Dr. Leonidas Berry moved to Chicago where he graduated from Rush Medical College.

He was the first African-American internist at Cook County Hospital (1946); he co-created the Eder-Berry Gastroscope, an instrument used to obtain tissue samples from the stomach. He was also the first American to use the fiberoptic gastroscope to view inside the digestive tract.

Dr. Berry held staff appointments at Cook County Hospital, and at Provident Hospital where he was the organizer and chairman of the division of gastroenterology for twenty-five years.

He is the past president of the New York Academy of Medicine, and the NAACP.
1961
The Cook County Department of Public Health joined several charitable and religious organizations in developing Spanish language, culturally-appropriate services for the Spanish-speaking community.

1961
Father Fidel, Cardinal’s Committee for Spanish Speaking People, counseling with new residents at St. Casimir’s Church, Chicago Heights.

1961
Information about community health and social welfare services broadcast in Spanish by Aurora De Blu.
Prevention of Poisoning Challenges Cook County Department of Public Health

The Department of Public Health focused its energies and educational programs on the rise in accidental poisonings. More than 1,000 cases – almost 90% involving children under five – were reported to the Department by 14 area hospitals.
County of Cook: Milestones in Health Care

1966

BURN UNIT
A unit for the care of patients with burns was established on the 5th floor of the Children's Hospital. The new unit had its own operating room, physical therapy ward, and ward for patients.

TRAUMA UNIT
The first shock trauma unit in the U.S. was developed and operated to serve patients with all types of major injuries. Patients were admitted to the unit for resuscitation and care. New, powerful weapons resulted in terrible gunshot wounds, but more patients were able to survive as a result of rapid and innovative treatment.
The Health and Hospitals Governing Commission of Cook County was established by the State Legislature in July, 1969 and charged with planning and coordinating health care, and overseeing the management of the Cook County Hospital, the Cook County School of Nursing, Oak Forest Hospital; and later of Cermak Jail Hospital and ten community health clinics.

Grand Opening of the South Lawndale Health Center, one of ten Governing Commission community health centers. Dr. Jorge Prieto greets the guests at the grand opening of South Lawndale, which would later become the Dr. Jorge Prieto Health Center at Cook County.

Controversial firing of physicians by the Governing Commission among other issues brought about a conflict between administration and the house staff. The Governing Commission under estimated the power of the house staff, which would go on strike, an act which led to the ultimate demise of the Governing Commission.

In Pediatrics, care of sick newborns became regionalized in the State and other hospitals referred small, sick infants to Cook County Hospital's Neonatology Unit.

Approximately 45% of all premature infants born in the city were cared for at Cook County Hospital.
Dr. Quentin Young, Chairman of Medicine, Cook County Hospital, 1972-1981

- Appointed Chairman of Medicine on August 15, 1972
- Intern and medical student at County from 1947-1952.
- He was clinical professor of preventive and occupational medicine at the University of Illinois and was on staff at Michael Reese Hospital at the time of his appointment.
- Dr. Young had marched in Selma, Alabama with Martin Luther King; he made humanitarian journeys to Cuba and North Vietnam; he also had set up aid stations to treat the wounded during the Democratic National Convention in Chicago; and he was national chairman of the medical committee for human rights.
- Dr. Young set about to rebuild the Department of Medicine by recruiting a new attending and house staff.
  - added new faculty members and an increased number of American-trained house staff
  - sought out and added African-American and other minorities to his staff
  - stressed continuity of care, preventive medicine, and outpatient treatment
  - established a section of occupational medicine, still in operation today.
  - many Chicago leaders in the field of occupational medicine were trained at County while Dr. Young was chief of medicine.
County of Cook: *Milestones in Health Care*

The Comprehensive Rehabilitation Program emerges at Oak Forest Hospital

1972
During November 1976, over 130 cases of red measles were reported to the Cook County Department of Public Health. There was only one reported case in October, and the November total equaled the entire number of reported cases for the year 1975.
1981
Cook County Hospital’s Trauma Center with a remarkable 98.5% recovery rate becomes a prototype for trauma centers around the country.

1981
The Burn Center, which provides highly specialized care for victims of thermal, chemical and electrical injuries, was hailed by Business Week magazine as one of the two best centers of its type in the U.S.

1980s
Cook County School of Nursing closes after 100 years.
County of Cook: *Milestones in Health Care*

1981

Cermak Health Services is named the largest accredited care facility in the United States.

1982

Each of the 52,000 individuals admitted yearly to the Cook County Correctional Center receives a comprehensive screening exam to detect contagious disease and recent trauma. A medical and psychiatric history is also compiled.
In 1987, CCDPH saw a dramatic increase in activities dealing with the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS). A series of grants from the Illinois Department of Public Health totaled more than $246,500 for AIDS-related activities.

Cook County Hospital AIDS quilt memorial
Cook County Hospital holds AIDS Quilt Memorial Service for the hospital patients who died of AIDS.

A comprehensive curriculum on sexuality was written by the Cook County Department of Public Health for use in junior and senior high schools. Reproduction, pregnancy, contraception, sexuality transmitted diseases (including AIDS) and decision-making are among the subjects covered.
Ruth M. Rothstein is Appointed Cook County Hospital Director

Provident Hospital of Cook County Grand Opening. Provident Hospital opened its doors to patient care in August, 1993. The County purchased the hospital from HUD for $1 and then spent over $55 million to renovate and upgrade it.

Bureau Chief Ruth Rothstein initiates Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony at Provident’s Grand Opening.

The Ambulatory and Community Health Network of Cook County is established. The Ambulatory and Community Health Network develops and operates community and school-based health centers to conveniently provide health care close to patient’s homes.

The Fantus Health Center of Cook County, a member of the Ambulatory and Community Health Network of Cook County provides preventative, primary and subspecialty care in over 95 clinics.
Cook County Hospital Goes Hollywood

Actor Harrison Ford can certainly tell you a lot about Cook County Hospital. Ford created quite a stir when he visited the hospital on two occasions – once for a site visit and a second time to film part of his movie The Fugitive. Ford graciously posed for photographs, signed autographs, and talked with employees.

Approximately 50 hospital employees, a few patients and visitors served as extras, including trauma physicians and nurses who acted as medical consultants.

“The Fugitive” star, Harrison Ford with Bureau Chief Ruth Rothstein and the film’s director Alan Davis.
The Royal Visit
On June 5, 1996, Her Royal Highness, Diana, Princess of Wales, visited Cook County Hospital. Her Royal Highness was escorted on a tour of the hospital. Specific stops along the tour included Ward 23, the Trauma Center, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and the Pediatric Emergency Room.
1996
Prieto Health Center Opens in Little Village

From left to right: Richard Risk, CEO, Advocate Health Care; John H. Stroger, Jr., County Board President; Ruth M. Rothstein, Bureau Chief, and Dr. Jorge Prieto, a pioneer in family medicine for whom the health center is named.

1998
New Cermak Health Service Facility Opens

The Bureau of Health Services opens a new, improved health care facility at the Cook County Department of Corrections. The new facility includes an expanded emergency room, specialty clinics, medical/surgical and mental health infirmaries, and more.

1999
The CORE Center Opens

Cook County’s state-of-the-art CORE Center opens. The facility is a center for the prevention, care and research of infectious disease including HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other infectious disease.
In a unanimous vote, the Cook County Board voted to rename Cook County Hospital, John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County in honor of Cook County Board President John H. Stroger, Jr.
County of Cook: Milestones in Health Care

Milestones for the John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County
(New Cook County Hospital)

1932
• American College of Surgeons’ report calls for replacement of Cook County Hospital

1991
• Replacement of Cook County Hospital becomes a priority for the newly created Cook County Bureau of Health Services

1992
• Bureau of Health Services Advisory Committee issues report recommending replacement of Cook County Hospital

1993
• Press conference held to release Coopers & Lybrand financial analysis which shows building a new hospital would save property taxpayers millions of dollars

1994
• Master Plan for a new hospital completed
• Cook County Board of Commissioners convenes public hearings on need for new hospital

1995
• CON Permit Letter received
• Program manager and executive architect/engineer selected
• New hospital project kick-off event held for hospital staff
• New Hospital Operations Committee and Project Committees established

1996
• Demolition of buildings begins. (Pictured: As demolition of Karl Meyer Hall (KMH) progresses, the doctors who frequented the KMH Gym said their own personal good-bye.)

1998
• Groundbreaking Ceremony held for new hospital
• Parking garage opens (Phase 1)
• Topping Off Ceremony held for new hospital

2001
• New hospital renamed the John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County

2002
• Substantial Completion Ceremony held for new hospital
• City of Chicago grants the Occupancy Permit to new hospital
• IDPH grants the Patient Occupancy Permit to new hospital

December 11, 2002
Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
December 12, 2002
John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County Opens
John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County at a Glance
(New Cook County Hospital)

AREA: 1.2 Million Square Feet
LEVELS: 8 Plus Lower Level

464 Inpatient Beds

228 Medical/Surgical Beds
(Floors 6, 7, & 8)

80 ICU Beds
12 beds-Trauma ICU (1st floor)
34 beds-Medical ICU (3rd floor)
24 beds-Surgical ICU (3rd floor)
10 beds-Pediatrics ICU (4th floor)

40 Obstetrics Beds
(4th floor) [adjoining 13 Labor/Delivery/Recovery rooms and 2 C-section operating rooms on 4th floor]

40 Pediatrics Beds
(4th floor)

58 Neonatal Intensive Care Beds
(4th floor)

18 Burn Beds
(6 ICU beds on 3rd floor and 12 “step-down” beds on 8th floor)

Adult & Pediatric Emergency Services

Trauma Services

Outpatient Treatment & Diagnostic Services
Serving inpatient and ambulatory patients referred from throughout the Cook County Bureau of Health Services system, the new facility provides these services:

• Radiology modalities including MRI, Angiography, Nuclear Medicine, Computed Tomography (CT), Mammography, and others

• Radiation therapy: two linear accelerators

• Laboratory services in a highly automated central laboratory that perform more than 3.5 million tests annually

• Cardiac diagnostic and treatment services, including two new, state-of-the-art Cardiac Catheterization suites

• Pulmonary function: diagnosis and treatment
A D I S T I N G U I S H E D H E R I T A G E O F H E A L T H

County of Cook: Milestones in Health Care

John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County
(New Cook County Hospital)

Beginning a new era in public health hospitals, the John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County brings the most up-to-date technology, efficient and contemporary environment to the 5 million residents of Cook County. It will continue the tradition of community focused healthcare that began in 1866 at Cook County Hospital.

Single Patient Rooms are brightly decorated and have private bathrooms, televisions and telephones.

In the old hospital as many as 29 patients shared the one bathroom, shower and telephone on the ward.

There were no televisions unless the patient brought one from home.

A state-of-the-art Data Center links the communications systems among all Bureau affiliates.

An example of 21st Century technology is the Linear Accelerator. It provides a more precise treatment of cancer by shaping the radiation to fit the affected area.

There are dedicated intensive care units for Trauma, Medical, Cardiac, Surgery, Neurosurgery and Pediatrics (shown above).

The new Parking Garage accommodates 1,340 vehicles and is scheduled for expansion to 2,100 vehicles.
John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County
(New Cook County Hospital)

Bright, comfortable family and visitor waiting areas are sprinkled throughout the hospital

The spacious cafeteria offers a wide variety of menu choices and a relaxing atmosphere

A New Beginning in Delivering Babies and Caring for Children
For the first time, all of the hospital’s labor, delivery and pediatric care are combined on one floor

Certified nurse midwives provide a full range of women’s services including prenatal care, family planning and labor and delivery care

In the all private LDR (Labor Delivery Room), newborns are able to “room in” with mom in an isolet

The Pediatric area is brightly colored and filled with bright, whimsical artwork and room borders

The NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit), one of the largest in the midwest, has been equipped with “Baby Susan” beds for all of the babies in the NICU; allowing doctors to treat infants by changing the position of the beds mattress instead of moving the infant
Convenience, technological advancements and enhanced time and resource efficiencies make the new Specialty Care Center a vital component in the Cook County Bureau of Health Services delivery system.

Located on the first and second floors of the new hospital, with a separate entrance, the specialty care center will provide more than 220,000 outpatient visits each year. More than 300,000 primary care visits will continue to be provided annually at the Fantus Health Center located across the street from the hospital. Both the Specialty Care Center and Fantus are operated by the Bureau’s Ambulatory and Community Health Network.

With 127 exam and 20 treatment rooms the center is designed to make outpatient specialty care more accessible to patients referred from any of the Bureau’s sites and its community-based partners. The center allows patients to receive minor surgery, diagnostic and treatment services without requiring a hospital admission.

The Specialty Care Center is fully integrated into the system-wide advances of the hospital, including digitized imaging, a state-of-the art information system that will allow for the scanning of patient notes, a pneumatic tube system, and technologically advanced pharmaceutical services.
County of Cook: Milestones in Health Care

John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County
PROJECT TEAM

John H. Stroger, Jr.
President
Cook County Board of Commissioners

Ruth M. Rothstein
Chief
Cook County Bureau of Health Services

Micheal E. LaMont
Director
Office of Capital Planning and Policy

PROJECT MANAGER TEAM
Partnership for Community Healthcare L.L.C.
A Joint Venture of:
U.S. Equities Development and Turner Construction Co.

ARCHITECT/ENGINEERING PLANNING TEAM
CCH Design Group
A Joint Venture of: McDonough Associates, Inc.;
Loebl Schlossman and Hackl, Inc.;
Globetrotters Engineering Corp.; and HDR, Inc.

EQUIPMENT PLANNING TEAM
EQ International, Inc.

CONSTRUCTION TEAM
Walsh/Riteway
A Joint Venture of:
Walsh Construction Company of Illinois and Riteway Construction Services
The Trauma Center at Cook County Hospital, established in 1966, is the prototype of its kind in the United States. The purpose of the Trauma Unit is to treat the entire traumatized patient.

- Of the 4,500 patients admitted annually, a remarkable 98% survive.
- The unit is designated as a Level I adult and Pediatric Trauma Center with its own intensive care area.

MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH

A Bureau level department for Maternal and Infant Health Services coordinates a comprehensive system of care for pregnant women and their babies. The goal of the program is to assist in safe deliveries and healthy infants.

- Women are offered an increasing number of care and delivery options based on where they live and their individual medical, educational and social needs.
- In addition to pregnant moms cared for at Bureau locations and at St. Anthony and Bethesda Hospitals, the Bureau offers high-risk perinatal support to expectant moms at Jackson Park, Northwest Community, St. Bernard, St. Elizabeth’s and Roseland Hospitals.
- Clinics for mothers with high-risk pregnancies are offered at Cook County, Provident and St. Anthony Hospitals, as well as at Cermak Health Services.

A DISTINGUISHED HERITAGE OF HEALTH

COOK COUNTY BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES PROGRAMS AND SERVICES’ ONE OF THE LARGEST PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS IN THE COUNTRY

Access to Care Programs
- Adolescent/Young Adult Medicine
- Allergy Clinic
- Amputation Services
- Arthritis Program
- Asthma Program
- Audiology
- Brain Injury Rehabilitation Program
- Burn
- Cancer
- Cardiology
- CAT Scan
- Cleft Palate Clinic
- Communicable Disease Control
- Community Resource Center
- Dental
- Dermatology
- Developmental Screenings
- Diabetes Center
- Diagnostic
- Dialysis
- Domestic Violence Services
- Emergency Services
- Endocrinology
- Endoscopy
- Ear/Nose/Throat/Clinic
- Family Planning
- Family Practice
- Gastroenterology
- Genetic Counseling
- Geriatric Medicine
- Gynecology
- Hand Clinic
- Hearing Aid Services
- Hematology
- HIV/AIDS
- Immunizations
- Infectious Diseases
- Intensive Care
- Laboratory
- Laparoscopic Surgery
- Laser Surgery
- Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Medical Genetics
- Mental Health
- Neuromuscular Disease
- Otolaryngology
- Ophthalmology
- Orthopedics
- Outpatient Services
- Pain Clinic
- Palliative Care
- Pathology
- Pediatrics
- Pharmacy
- Physical Therapy
- Plastic Surgery
- Podiatric
- Prenatal Care
- Psychiatry
- Psychology
- Public Health Inspections
- Pulmonary Medicine
- Radiation Therapy
- Radiology
- Recreational Therapy
- Regional Perinatal Center
- Rehabilitation
- Renal Clinic
- Respiratory Therapy
- Rheumatology
- Clinic
- Same Day Surgery
- School Based Health Centers
- Scoliosis
- Senior Wellness Program
- Sexual Assault Services
- STD Services
- Sickle Cell
- Skilled Nursing Care
- Smoking Cessation
- Social Work/Social Services
- Speech/Language
- Sports Medicine
- Support Groups
- Surgery
- Trauma Center
- Tuberculosis Screening Services
- Urology
- Ventilator Services
- Vision/Hearing Screening
- Vocational Rehabilitation
- Wellness on Wheels Van
- WIC Program
- Women’s Cancer Center
- And More!

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

ASTHMA

Cook County Bureau of Health Services initiatives have taken a multi-pronged approach to the treatment and management of asthma.

- The emergency department has focused on maximizing drug efficacy.
- The pediatric allergy department has focused on the relationship between heightened allergy sensitivities and asthma in children.
- Because of the prevalence of asthma in many of the communities served by the Bureau, there has been an emphasis on staff and patient education.
- The Asthma and Longevity Community Health Network has trained practitioners to teach patients about self-care and self-monitoring to prevent the onset of respiratory failure, and it conducts numerous outreach efforts.
- By creating a seamless system of asthma care, the more serious patients are identified earlier and referred to specialist, and resources are allocated to the areas with the highest concentration of asthma.

BURN UNIT

The Burn Center of Cook County Hospital is a self-contained center for the treatment of burn victims. It has 12 convalescent beds, a nine-bed intensive care unit, its own operating room and other burn care facilities. More than 500 patients were admitted in 1999 with thermal, chemical and electrical burns as well as diseases such as toxic epidermal necrolysis. The center’s treatment goal optimizes survival and return to pre-burn activity.

CANCER

The Cook County Bureau of Health Services treats more cancer than any other system in the Chicago area.

- The Bureau of Health Services has particularly targeted breast and prostate cancers, illnesses disproportionately affecting the patient populations using the Bureau system of health care.
- The Mammography capacity has been expanded at Provident and Cook County Hospitals.
- The Women’s Cancer Center of the Bureau is based at Cook County Hospital, a multi-disciplinary center providing coordinated treatment throughout the entire Bureau system.
- In addition, the Cook County Department of Public Health offers free breast and cervical cancer tests.
- The Mobile Mammography Coach tours Cook County, offering women the opportunity to have a breast examination close to home.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

To offer optimal treatment to patients with sexually transmitted diseases, hepatitis, tuberculosis, and other infectious diseases, the Bureau has emphasized innovative treatment protocol, research on best practice models disseminated throughout the system.

- The Bureau was chosen from among 20 health systems and hospitals nationwide, to receive a grant from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention to develop a long-term strategy to control infections that resist standard antibiotics. The study will develop protocols that could help physicians throughout the nation better control drug-resistant viruses.

Robert Weinstein, MD, Chairman of Infectious Disease Services for Cook County Hospital and for the Bureau of Health Services was honored recently with the SafetyNet Clinical Research Award from the National Association of Public Hospitals.

MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH

A Bureau level department for Maternal and Infant Health Services coordinates a comprehensive system of care for pregnant women and their babies. The goal of the program is to assist in safe deliveries and healthy infants.

- Women are offered an increasing number of care and delivery options based on where they live and their individual medical, educational and social needs.
- In addition to pregnant moms cared for at Bureau locations and at St. Anthony and Bethesda Hospitals, the Bureau offers high-risk perinatal support to expectant moms at Jackson Park, Northwest Community, St. Bernard, St. Elizabeth’s and Roseland Hospitals.
- Clinics for mothers with high-risk pregnancies are offered at Cook County, Provident and St. Anthony Hospitals, as well as at Cermak Health Services.

NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE CENTER

The Cook County Children’s Hospital has the largest Neonatal Intensive Care Center in the midwest.

- Approximately 800 sick newborns, some weighing as little as one pound, are cared for in the unit.
- The Neonatal Center is a recovering center for sick babies from all other hospitals throughout Chicago.

VIOLENCE PREVENTION

For the Bureau, violence is treated as a public health problem that can be reduced through prevention strategies and direct services, including: training, advocacy, institutional outreach, community action, and research.

- Unique among violence prevention programs is the Hospital Crisis Intervention Program (HCIP).
- It is the only in-house domestic violence program at Cook County Hospital. It is the first program of its kind to be located in a public hospital.

County Board President John H. Stroger, Jr. with Bureau staff and others in front of a billboard promoting violence prevention. Billboards promoting violence prevention were posted throughout Cook County.
African-American Men’s Health
The Cook County Bureau of Health Services has consistently been in the forefront in creating innovative programs and providing services in response to the needs of the community. In 1998, it launched its premiere Black Man’s Health Program, “PROJECT BROTHERHOOD: A BLACK MAN’S CLINIC,” on the Southside of Chicago. Located at Woodlawn Health Center of Cook County, one of the Bureau’s Ambulatory & Community Health Network sites, PROJECT BROTHERHOOD has been successful in getting Black men into the health center for diagnosis and treatment by creating a setting different than the traditional health care setting. A barber shop-like environment where men sit around and talk, PROJECT BROTHERHOOD offers medical and social services to improve the overall health and well-being of black men in the community.

Medical Services:
• Physical Examinations
• Primary Care
• HIV/AIDS Services
• Specialty Care Services

Social Support Services:
• Resume Services
• Group and Individual Counseling
• Job Development Skills
• Health Education Seminars
• Discussion Groups
• Referrals to other Chicago Area Services

Men of all ages and backgrounds participate in PROJECT BROTHERHOOD, from the homeless to neighborhood businessmen, allowing for a wide variety of ideas and a broad base of experience. They may initially come in for a haircut, then on another day sit in on a discussion group about employment or parenting and on a third day, go to the clinic for treatment of a particular health problem.

Another component of the Bureau’s Black Man’s Health initiative is located at Provident Hospital of Cook County, 4 MEN ONLY. A discussion group, focusing on a holistic approach to wellness, 4 MEN ONLY promotes and supports healthier lifestyles by providing information to participants concerning matters of health and wellness.

Medical Services:
* Annual Comprehensive Screenings
* Linkages to Primary Care and Specialty Care Services

Support Services:
* Seminars and Discussion Groups
* Health information

Both of these programs are mere examples of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services ongoing commitment to ensure that healthcare services are not only available, but that those who need them come into the healthcare facilities to receive services.
The Bureau of Health Services established a Research Development Office to encourage grant development to foster research that would benefit both the health system and its patients, and to assure strict compliance with research guidelines and ethics.

Recently, the Bureau received approval of a Multiple Project Assurance from the federal Office for Protection from Research Risk. The certification “licenses” the Bureau to carry out federally-funded research in all of the Bureau affiliates.

- For example, the Research Development Office works on basic research grants such as the one for physician-researchers to create genetically engineered cells to fight brain tumors.

Wellness On Wheels Targets Medically Indigent Designed to catch those who have fallen through the healthcare cracks, Cook County’s WOW Van travels the county to bring preventative care to people without funds or medical insurance.

Crack Down on Teen Smoking In cooperation with law enforcement agencies, county officials used undercover high school students to identify retailers selling cigarettes to underage consumers. Students journalists helped spread the dangers of smoking.
A DISTINGUISHED HERITAGE OF HEALTH

County of Cook: Milestones in Health Care

COOK COUNTY BUREAU OF HEALTH SERVICES
ONE OF THE LARGEST PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEMS
IN THE COUNTRY

Map Key

- Cook County Bureau of Health Services
- Ambulatory and Community Health Network of Cook County (Adm. Ofc.)
- Health Centers
- Cermak Health Services of Cook County
- Cook County Department of Public Health (Adm. Ofc.)
- Public Health Clinics
- Access to Care Sites

John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County
- The CORE Center
- Oak Forest Hospital of Cook County
- Provident Hospital of Cook County

We Bring Health to Your Community
A DISTINGUISHED HERITAGE OF HEALTH

County of Cook: Milestones in Health Care

Introduction

In 1835, four years after Cook County Government was incorporated, the first health services, The Public Alms House for the poor, was established. Now, 165 years later, this has evolved into the Cook County Bureau of Health Services, an innovative, cost-efficient system of integrated healthcare. Today, it is the second largest division of Cook County Government and one of the largest public health systems in the country, caring for more than 1.5 million people every year.

From that day when the County first became responsible for ministering to the sick poor, we have taken our charge very seriously. And, as you’ll see in this exhibit, we have attracted many of the pioneers of medicine whose work earned Cook County Hospital and Provident Hospital reputations for professional excellence around the world.

This exhibit recognizes the milestones that so richly represent the extraordinary role that Cook County Government has played in the delivery of healthcare services and it celebrates the vital role the Cook County Bureau of Health Services plays as the architect of such a distinguished history.

This exhibit also honors the healthcare providers who have given of their time and effort, and those that continue to work today to meet the healthcare needs of the residents of Cook County. To all the healthcare professionals who have been a part of our distinguished history, to those who continue to work tirelessly to ensure that healthcare is available and accessible to anyone, regardless of their ability to pay, we extend our deep appreciation and our gratitude for a job well done.

Nearly two Centuries of Health Services to the Community

John H. Stroger, Jr.
President,
Cook County Board of Commissioners
In 2008, as the concept of damage control revolutionized the world of trauma surgery, the Trauma Unit in the John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County began working to solve a dilemma: how to close an open abdomen following a trauma. By thinking outside the box, the Cook County Trauma Unit developed and pioneered a new approach to wound management, the Trans Abdominal Wall Traction (TAWT) technique. Using the TAWT technique, surgeons can close virtually any open abdominal wound. The TAWT technique has been adopted by surgeons world-wide, helping countless patients with complex surgical wounds.

As of the tenth anniversary of the new hospital, the Cook County Trauma Unit is the third busiest trauma unit in the United States. More than 98% of people who were admitted to the Trauma Unit survive their injuries, a reflection of the skillfulness, dedication and state of the art care delivered by our Trauma Unit team. The Cook County Trauma Unit has been training site for medical students and residents since it was founded, and has remained a resource for specialized medical training. As of 2012, over 3500 students, 3500 residents, and 19 surgical fellows received training in the Trauma Unit. These trainees came from medical schools and residency training programs throughout the United States and from several other countries.

The Cook County Trauma Unit continues to collaborate with the Department of State and United States Secret Service to provide high level care and medical support for dignitaries.
In 2011, John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County was named the 4th Emergency Medical System resource hospital within the Chicago EMS System. The EMS Medical Directors from the four resource hospitals in cooperation with the Chicago Fire Department provide medical oversight for one of the largest and busiest EMS systems in the United States. Medical oversight duties include creation of pre-hospital EMS protocols, EMS provider continuing education, system quality assurance, and strategic planning. The Stroger ED also serves as a telemetry base station for the system, providing real time direct medical oversight to EMS providers. The Stroger EMS Medical Director, Dr. Joseph Weber, is also medical director for the regional City Colleges of Chicago paramedic program based at Malcolm-X College.

Electronic Medical Record Implementation Complete

Throughout the ten years of 2002-2012, the Cook County Health and Hospitals System greatly expanded the electronic medical record and digital radiology system. The electronic medical record is now active at all Cook County Health and Hospitals System sites. Doctors, nurses and ancillary personnel document entirely within the electronic medical record. The doctors and nurse practitioners utilize computerized order entry to place patient care orders and e-prescribe. The electronic medical record helps us integrate care for patients throughout our health system, provide more comprehensive care, and helps us deliver care that adheres to medical guidelines and is safer and easier for patients.
In 2010, the John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County was accredited by the Joint Commission as a Stroke Center. Joint Commission approved Stroke Centers develop rapid protocols to identify and treat patients who present to the emergency department with signs of a stroke. In addition, stroke centers must provide comprehensive, high quality ongoing care of stroke patients in the hospital and after discharge, insuring the best possible recovery for patients suffering from strokes.
In 2009, the Cook County Simulation Center was established within the Department of Emergency Medicine. The Simulation Center was built to mimic the clinical environment of an emergency room. The Center was linked, via sound and video, to instructors to enhance the learning experience. A family of advanced simulation dolls was procured and named CHESTER (Cook County Hospital Electronic Simulator for Trauma and Emergency Resuscitation), CHRI\(S\) (Cook County Hospital Resuscitation Infant Simulator), CHA\(S\)E (Cook County Hospital Adult Simulation Educator) and CHLOE (Cook County Hospital Labor and Delivery Obstetrics Educator). The Simulation Center is committed to using emerging simulation technologies in order to improve patient safety, medical education and staff communication. Each year, the Cook County Simulation Center provides an outstanding hands-on learning experience to hundreds of Cook County Health and Hospitals System physicians, nurses, and students so they may perfect their patient resuscitation, medical decision making, and procedural/technical skills.

The National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems awarded the 2009 Safety Net Award to the Cook County Health and Hospitals System WeAsk SBIRT Program in the category of Quality Improvement.

In the Cook County Health and Hospitals System, it became standard practice for patients to receive cost-effective substance use screening and early intervention. As part of general healthcare, Health System patients with addiction disorders could also expect their healthcare team to arrange access to specialized treatment.

Begun with the help of a federal award in 2004, substance use screening, brief intervention, referral, and treatment (SBIRT) services became available throughout the Cook County Health and Hospitals System. Trained counselors worked alongside doctors and nurses, in System hospitals, emergency departments, and ambulatory clinics to provide interventions for unhealthy substance use individualized to the patient’s need.

The WeAsk SBIRT program encouraged both health care providers and patients to view substance use as a health problem providing the opportunity to improve the quality of both general healthcare and addiction treatment.
County of Cook: Milestones in Health Care

CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Management Center

HIGHLIGHTS

Academic Milestones
• The tradition of regional anesthesia was started by Dr. Alon P. Winnie, a former chairman, who pioneered nerve block techniques still used worldwide. This tradition continues now with Dr. Carlo Franco
• Anesthesiology residency program ranks among the top 10th percentile nationally
• 2012 hosted the largest anesthesiology residency convention in the U.S., with over 700 participants and over 450 presentations

Pain Management Center
• Developed one of the first multidisciplinary/multimodal pain management center incorporating medical/ interventional/ psychological and complementary medicine modalities

International Humanitarian Support
Medical missions in South America, India, and Africa
American Hospital Association Circle of Life Citation to Palliative Care at Stroger Hospital

The John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County Palliative Care Program received a 2011 Circle of Life Citation of Honor sponsored by the American Hospital Association and the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine.

When patients with life-limiting illness are referred for palliative care at Stroger Hospital, they meet a team who will be with them not only while they’re in the hospital, but also in outpatient clinics, hospice, and even in their living rooms. The team goes to great lengths to establish relationship with their patients and to assist them through the medical, emotional, and practical issues of serious illness.

From its beginnings in 2011, the palliative care team at Stroger Hospital maintained this close bond with patients throughout their illnesses. The palliative care program sees more than 700 patients each year at the hospital, has five outpatient clinics, provides palliative and end-of-life care to patients from the Cook County detention facility, and works closely with local hospices providing care at home. The program also supports a palliative care training fellowship and is engaged in research on the value of outpatient palliative care.
In 2012, the Chicago Emergency Medical System created a STEMI system of care and named specific hospitals as STEMI Receiving Centers. John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County was selected to be one of these STEMI Receiving Centers. These hospitals were selected because they demonstrated advanced and expeditious care for patients suffering from a heart attack. Patients with chest pain who call 911 have ECG’s performed by Chicago Fire Department Paramedics. If they are having a heart attack, the STEMI Receiving Center is contacted while the ambulance is in route so that the hospital can prepare to receive the patient and provide rapid treatment to open up the blocked artery in the heart.
In 2008, the Cook County Board of Commissioners established the Cook County Health and Hospitals System as an agency of Cook County. At that time, the President of the Cook County Board, with the consent of the County Board, appointed eleven Directors to assume responsibility over the governance of the County’s Health System. These Directors were identified through a comprehensive nominating process involving fourteen community organizations representing health, business and civic interests. Those volunteer Directors brought expertise from various key areas, including health care administration, clinical medicine, labor relations, and finance.

Once established, the Health System’s Board of Directors quickly moved forward with a number of initiatives. Their accomplishments include the development of the Health System’s Strategic Five Year Plan including the successful transformation of the Oak Forest Campus to a regional outpatient center. The System Board also adopted various policies, including those relating to human resources and procurement.

The directors on the inaugural System Board were Warren L. Batts - first System Board Chair, Jorge Ramirez - Vice Chair, David Arnsell, County Commissioner Jerry Butler, David Carvalho, Benn Greenspan, Sister Sheila Lyne, Quin Golden, Luis Munoz and Heather O’Donnell, and Andrea Zopp.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Cook County Health and Hospitals System works to provide a Comprehensive program of Quality healthcare with respect and dignity, to the residents of Cook County, regardless of their ability to pay.
In 2012, the CCHHS Department of Nursing implemented its first annual PROFESSIONAL REGISTERED NURSE CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARD PROGRAM to recognize outstanding clinical performance, for hands on direct patient care, from one of each of the following categories across the Health System:

- Advanced Practice Nurse Role
- Ambulatory/ CORE Center
- Correctional
- Emergency
- Interventional/Special Procedures
- Maternal-Child
- Medical-Surgical/Critical Care
- Peri-Operative
- Public Health

Clinical Excellence Award Winners embody excellence in patient care delivery in the following areas:

- Relationships and Care
- Vision
- Innovation
- Advocacy
- Teamwork & Collaboration
- Clinical Expertise
Level III Peri-Natal Center Re-Designation

John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County successfully achieved re-designation as a Level III Perinatal Center facility on November 16, 2011 by the Illinois Department of Public Health. A Level III Peri-Natal provides specialized, medical services for pregnant women in “high-risk” situations, and for their infants who might require special care after delivery. These Centers collaborate with community hospitals to share expertise and transfer pregnant women or newborns to Stroger Hospital for specialized care.

The multidisciplinary Level III team includes: Perinatal Leadership, Subspecialty Maternal-Fetal Medicine Obstetricians, OB/GYN Physicians, Neonatal Physicians, Maternal and Neonatal Nurses. The coordinated care of these mothers and newborns requires case management services, and a variety of other services including: pediatric surgery, radiology, neurology, anesthesia, cardiology, ophthalmology, urology, genetics, nutrition, pharmacy, physical and occupational therapy, and respiratory therapy.

Division of Child Protective Services

In 2001, the Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center opened uniting public, private, and community partners to ensure the safety, health and well-being of abused children. To streamline and improve the care of abused children, the Chicago Police Department, the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office, work together with family advocates, mental health counselors and support staff. The Division of Child Protective Services provides the medical assessment and care of these children at an on-site medical clinic, the second largest of its kind in the United States.

Cook County Hospital was one of the first hospitals in the country to support a team of professionals dedicated to the multi-disciplinary evaluation and treatment of children and families in the grip of child abuse. Cook County health care professionals created one of the first multi-disciplinary child abuse teams dedicated to addressing the problems of child abuse with professionalism, intelligence and compassion.

Division of Adolescent & Young Adult Medicine

The Youth Buddy Program of the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine proposed by an HIV positive patient was developed and implemented in 2000 to provide a forum for youth-to-youth peer counseling in the clinic setting. Youth serve as role models to recently infected individuals by providing credibility based on “having been there”. Buddies undergo training and debrief with a staff member at the conclusion of each clinic session. In addition to being a critical support system for newly diagnosed HIV positive youth, being a buddy has been an enhancing experience for the personal and professional development of these young people and many have participated as youth advocates representing the “voice of young people” at local and national levels. Since the program’s inception, about 20-25 youth have served in this important role.

Project SMILE: A Linkage-to-Care Program for HIV (+) Youth

Housed in the Division of Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine, Project SMILE is a collaboration between the Chicago Department of Public Health and the NICHD funded Chicago Adolescent Medicine Trials Network (ATN). This project provides the linkage of HIV (+) youth, 12 to 24 years old, to a medical care home of their choice. Linkage to a medical home provides these youth with the opportunity for early treatment, assistance with disclosure, identification of co-morbidities, and to address social service needs. Linkage to a primary care site is facilitated by an Outreach Worker who provides short-term case management services and acts as a liaison until official services are established.
2012
Patient-Centered Medical Home
1115 Waiver / CountyCare

In 2012, the Cook County Health and Hospitals System initiated the transformation of its healthcare deliver model into a Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH) model. The PCMH model is a team-based delivery model wherein patients are assigned to a primary care home where they receive quality, continuous, comprehensive, and, most significantly, coordinated care. This coordinated care model was designed to improve access to care, maximize outcomes, enhance patient satisfaction, control costs and allow the Health System to achieve sustainability going forward. With a focus on primary, preventive and chronic care, benefits include allowing patients to have a connection with a primary care physician to ensure that their care is being managed as they move between outpatient primary care, outpatient specialty care and inpatient services.

A significant catalyst for this transformation to a PCMH model was the fact that, in 2012, the Federal Government granted an “1115 Waiver” to the State of Illinois. Under this 1115 Waiver, beginning in 2012, patients who would become eligible for Medicaid in 2014 under the Federal Patient Accountability and Affordable Care Act were allowed to early enroll in Medicaid through the Health System’s 1115 Waiver Demonstration Project which was named CountyCare.

MISSION STATEMENT
The Cook County Health and Hospitals System works to provide a Comprehensive program of Quality healthcare with respect and dignity, to the residents of Cook County, regardless of their ability to pay.