

Cook County Health System - LWVCC ANNUAL MEETING 5/18/2020

Background: The Cook County Health System has been providing patient care to the residents of Cook County for over 180 years.

Since 2008, it has been governed by an independent board of eleven members. In November 2019 the board unanimously voted **not** to extend CEO, Jay Shannon's contract. Debra Cary is acting as Interim CEO while a nation-wide search is underway. In addition the CFO and the head of the Public Health Department were let go in 2020 and President Preckwinkle hired Mr. Otis Story to represent her office on the CCH Board.

Challenges:

- Attracting a new CEO, CFO, and Public Health Chief.
- Improving communication and collaboration with the Cook County President and Board.
- Managing the already tight 2020 budget severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Improving Patient care satisfaction; Need for staff cultural change "patient first mantra".
- Creeping rise in uninsured patients to 45%.
- Maintaining the ability to guarantee patient care regardless of ability to pay.
- Decision to cancel or go forward on replacing the old Provident Hospital.
- Instilling a system-wide belief that CCH must grow to survive:
 - @ Keep more of its Managed Care patients from going to other providers
 - @ Change the culture and patients' willingness to recommend
 - @ Convert its current Medicaid patients to Medicare when eligible. CCH has entered into a partnership with *More Care*, a new Medicare Advantage health plan.

The League's Role - Observe, Educate, and Advocate:

- ❖ Our mission statement for the CCH Interest Group is: *"Evaluate the governance and use of public funds by the Cook County Health System."*
- ❖ In January 2020, met with System's CFO and the Government Affairs and Public Affairs Directors to discuss the 2020 budget and questions we prepared.
- ❖ Also in January, met with Mr. James Kiamos, Director of the *County Care Insurance* for a tutorial on its provisions and challenges.
- ❖ Met with Board Directors to discuss their goals and to obtain their opinions on the financial sustainability of the System.
- ❖ Attended special hearings on the CC Inspector General's critical report of CCH's finances and the System's response including hiring its own outside audit.

- ❖ Observed all monthly board meetings and several committee meetings. We need more observers to cover board meetings which are held during the day.
- ❖ Toured the County Jail's Cermak Health Center on May 23.
- ❖ Set up a Tour of Provident Hospital for June 2020 which is on hold due to COVID-19.

Diane Edmundson, Chair Cook County Health Interest Group