



# Illinois Health and Hospital Association

October 12, 2017

## *IHA Weekly Regional Roundup*

### City of Chicago

On Tuesday, the Chicago City Council's Committee on Finance approved a [substitute ordinance](#) that would regulate pharmacy employee work environments, limit the number of hours pharmacists can work and restrict the number of prescriptions that can be filled hourly. The legislation would exempt hospitals, hospital-affiliated pharmacies and nursing homes from the new requirements. The ordinance has not yet been voted on by the full City Council.

The ordinance was introduced in response to concerns that certain pharmacies in the Chicago area do not warn customers about potential fatal or harmful drug interactions. It is modeled after Illinois State Rep. Mary Flowers' (D-31) [House Bill 2392](#), which would amend the Pharmacy Practice Act.

If approved by the full City Council, the city's ordinance would stipulate that, among other requirements:

- Pharmacists are not allowed to dispense prescription orders for more than 10 patients in one hour;
- Pharmacies mandate at least 10 pharmacy technician hours per 100 prescriptions filled; and
- Pharmacists have a minimum of two uninterrupted, 15-minute paid rest breaks and one uninterrupted 30-minute meal break period in each workday in which they work at least seven hours.

The ordinance would become effective 180 days after its passage.

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The Chicago City Council yesterday [approved](#) Mayor Rahm Emanuel's [proposal](#) to create a new, independent finance authority—under new powers in the state's 2018 budget—to issue general obligation debt on behalf of the city. This would allow Chicago to borrow money at a lower cost due to the finance authority's better credit rating. The first round of borrowing, which may be offered in multiple series, is \$3 billion in revenue bonds secured by the city's local sales tax and its proportionate share from the state.

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The Chicago City Council also approved a [resolution](#) calling for:

- President Donald Trump to officially declare the opioid crisis a national public health emergency and implement a coordinated response;
- Gov. Bruce Rauner to officially declare the opioid crisis a state public health emergency and increase residents' access to naloxone and substance use prevention and treatment programs;
- Mayor Emanuel to officially declare the opioid crisis a citywide public health emergency and expand the deployment of naloxone to all first responders, including the Chicago Police Department (CPD) and the Chicago Fire Department (CFD); and
- CPD Superintendent Eddie Johnson, CFD Commissioner Jose Santiago and Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner Julie Morita to appear before a Joint Committee on Finance and Public Safety to testify about the city's efforts to combat the opioid crisis and expanding naloxone deployment to all first responders.

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The Chicago Public Schools this week announced that it will increase property taxes by \$225 million, an 8.3 percent increase over 2017. Of that, \$154 million will fund teacher pensions. As a result, the average Chicago homeowner's property taxes will increase by \$177 per year. The tax increase does not require approval by the Chicago City Council, partly due to a recent state law that allows the Chicago Board of Education to raise \$125 million in new taxes under its own authority.

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### [Cook County](#)

Yesterday, the Cook County Board of Commissioners voted (15-2) to [repeal](#) the county's Sweetened Beverage Tax, effective Dec. 1. The repeal leaves an estimated \$200.6 million hole in the county's fiscal year (FY) 2018 budget. In a [statement](#), President Preckwinkle indicated that the board must "chart a new course" toward a balanced budget.

She has previously warned that the repeal will require significant cuts to department budgets, among them a \$27 million reduction to the Cook County Health and Hospitals System (CCHHS). She has indicated this could result in the closure of community health centers, a reduction of services or closure of Provident Hospital, and/or downgrading the Level One Trauma Center at Stroger Hospital.

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President Preckwinkle recently [presented](#) her \$5.36 billion [executive budget recommendation](#) for FY 2018 (Dec. 1, 2017 through Nov. 30, 2018), which incorporates the projected \$200.6 million in revenue from the repealed Sweetened Beverage Tax. The budget closes a \$115.3 million shortfall with \$35.5 million in expenditure reductions, including eliminating vacant

positions, savings in health benefits, beginning the right-sizing of the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, and planned consolidation of two warehouses into one.

It also takes into account projected growth in membership in CountyCare, CCHHS' Medicaid managed care program. The county anticipates the program could increase from 140,000 to 225,000 patients due to strategic acquisitions and system realignment required by Medicaid changes made by the state of Illinois.

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The Cook County Board also [confirmed](#) President Preckwinkle's appointment of Ammar Rizki as the county's chief financial officer. Rizki has been the county's acting chief financial officer since June 2017, after previously serving as deputy chief financial officer. IHA congratulates Rizki on his new position.

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### **Bureau County**

The Bureau County Board this week [engaged](#) two law firms to investigate the viability of and prosecute claims against the manufacturers of prescription opioids that engaged in the alleged aggressive marketing and distribution of opioids within the county. The class action lawsuit would request damages for costs relating to coroner's inquests, jailing inmates with substance use disorder and relevant health department initiatives, among others.

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### **Lake County**

The Lake County Health Department is offering three upcoming sessions of [Youth Mental Health First Aid training](#) for adults who work with adolescents in schools, hospitals, medical clinics, social services and youth groups. The training costs \$20 and is designed to provide the knowledge and skills to identify and support youth who are experiencing a mental health crisis or displaying warning signs of mental health problems or substance use disorder. Full-day sessions will take place at the health department on Oct. 19, Nov. 7 and Nov. 16.

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The Lake County Board will hold [public hearings](#) on its proposed 2018 budget on Oct. 24 and 25. Those unable to attend can watch the hearings on TV or [online](#).

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### **Macon County**

In preparation for the Medicare open enrollment period from Oct. 15 through Dec. 7, the Macon County Health Department will host three [Medicare Part D enrollment events](#):

- Oct. 19 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.;
- Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.; and
- Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Part D participants must schedule an appointment to attend these events. They should bring their Medicare cards and a complete list of their medications.

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### McLean County

The McLean County Health Department is [seeking nominations](#) for its 2017 Public Health Award, which recognizes a McLean County resident who furthers public health principles and practices by providing services in the county. The nominee's public health contribution can be professional or occupational, either as a volunteer or in a paid capacity.

Nominees should have made an impact on the community through their contributions in public health areas including:

- Aging population;
- Communicable disease;
- Community or individual mental health;
- Dental health;
- Employee wellness;
- Environmental health;
- Fitness and nutrition;
- Health education;
- Individuals with disabilities;
- Injury prevention at home, on the road or in a worksite;
- Maternal or child health; or
- Other health-related fields.

Nominations are due Oct. 23.

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### City of Des Plaines

The city of Des Plaines will [host](#) a [Visioning Workshop](#) on Oct. 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Frisbie Senior Center. The public event is part of the city's efforts to update its Comprehensive Plan, a document that guides development decisions in Des Plaines for the next five to 10 years. The workshop will provide an update on the status of the project and allow participants to share ideas about the city's future.

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### City of Geneva

The city of Geneva's Strategic Plan Advisory Committee is [hosting](#) two upcoming community meetings to gather public input on the current state of Geneva and initiatives that could enhance residents' quality of life. Residents, merchants and community stakeholders are invited to attend the meetings on:

- Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 6 to 8 p.m., at the Geneva Fire Department; and
- Wednesday, Oct. 25, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., at City Hall Council Chambers.

*The IHA Weekly Regional Roundup is researched, written and edited by Sarah Calder and Elyse Kallen in IHA's Government Relations and Corporate Communications and Marketing departments.*