



Illinois Health and Hospital Association

October 5, 2017

IHA Weekly Regional Roundup

City of Chicago

The Chicago Dept. of Public Health [announced](#) that both the city of Chicago and the Chicago Area HIV Integrated Services Council (CAHISC), Chicago's primary HIV advisory body, have joined more than 390 organizations from 56 countries in supporting the [Undetectable = Untransmittable \(U=U\) Campaign](#). The initiative aims to raise awareness internationally about the effectiveness of HIV treatment and destigmatize the disease. CAHISC is the first HIV planning council worldwide to join the campaign.

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This week, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, joined by the mayors of 43 other U.S. cities, sent a [letter](#) to U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) Interim Secretary Elaine Duke asking that DHS extend the Oct. 5 renewal deadline for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients whose permission expires in the next six months. The letter argues that the deadline should be extended until there is permanent legislative relief for DACA recipients.

Cook County

In advance of the Cook County Board of Commissioners' scheduled vote on a repeal of the Sweetened Beverage Tax on Oct. 10, the county's Acting Chief Financial Officer Ammar Rizki recently indicated to commissioners that if the tax were repealed, it would result in an average 11 percent reduction in the budgets for all departments funded by the corporate fund, public safety fund and health fund, compared to base fiscal year 2017 appropriated expenditures.

To repeal the tax, nine of the 17 commissioners would need to vote for the legislation. Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle has indicated she would veto any legislation repealing the tax, which is expected to raise \$200 million in revenue annually. If vetoed, conflicting county and state laws require either 11 or 14 commissioners vote to override it.

In other news, President Preckwinkle earlier today unveiled her [proposed fiscal year 2018 budget](#) for Cook County. The budget plan includes the projected \$200.6 million in revenue from the Sweetened Beverage Tax. She has indicated that without the tax, commissioners and elected countywide officials would need to make significant cuts to department budgets. IHA is reviewing the proposed budget and will provide an analysis in the coming days.

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The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation [awarded](#) a \$1.85 million grant this week to the Cook County justice system to safely reduce the jail population, divert certain nonviolent offenders from the court system and track efforts to remind defendants about future court dates. Among other priorities, the grant will fund a pilot program to start in March 2018 in which certain nonviolent offenders will be diverted from the court system and instead receive community-based treatment for substance use and mental health disorders. Under the pilot program, the Cook County Health & Hospitals System and the Chicago Police Department will work together to develop a plan to screen eligible offenders, who will have the opportunity to immediately begin a treatment program. The grant is awarded through the foundation's [Safety and Justice Challenge](#).

[DeKalb County](#)

The DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board will mark its 50th anniversary, as well as World Mental Health Day, with an [awareness event](#) on Oct. 10, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the Egyptian Theatre in DeKalb. The event will start with NAMI's *Ending the Silence*, a program that helps raise awareness and change perceptions around mental health, followed by a panel discussion about mental health experiences.

[Grundy County](#)

On Oct. 28, the Grundy County Health Department will offer a one-day [Youth Mental Health First Aid](#) workshop for community members. The training will emphasize basic mental health information and skills for helping a young person experiencing mental health challenges or substance use disorders. The registration fee is \$15. RSVPs are due by Oct. 25.

[Kane County](#)

On Oct. 14 at 9:30 a.m., the Kane County Health Department will host an [orientation meeting](#) for those considering joining the Kane County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC). The MRC identifies, screens, trains, and organizes volunteers to support routine public health activities and augment local emergency preparedness and response efforts.

[Kankakee County](#)

Kankakee County recently [filed](#) a lawsuit against pharmaceutical companies and physicians, alleging that they sought to create a false perception through deceptive marketing practices that using opioids to treat chronic pain was safe for most patients and that the drugs' benefits outweighed the risks. According to the county, as a result of these marketing campaigns and the amount of opioids in Kankakee County, it has incurred significant costs related to healthcare for county employees and retirees, including opioid prescriptions, substance use treatment services, ambulatory services, emergency department services, inpatient hospital services, and investigative autopsy costs. The county also indicates it has incurred criminal justice costs, victimization costs, lost productivity costs, education and prevention program costs, forensic costs, and costs from naloxone for first responders. The county is seeking compensatory and punitive damages for these costs. Both the city of Chicago and St. Clair County have previously filed similar lawsuits.

Lee and Whiteside Counties

A recent [report](#) from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority evaluated the Safe Passage program—a police deflection model that allows individuals to request and access substance use disorder treatment through a participating police department without fear of arrest—in Lee and Whiteside Counties. It found that Safe Passage has served 170 individuals in Lee and Whiteside counties since 2015. Specific findings from the period between August 2015 and 2016 include:

- 83 individuals entered Safe Passage and received detoxification and/or treatment. Of these, 12 entered Safe Passage more than once;
- Of the clients, 54 percent were male, the average age was 33 years, and a majority were single, unemployed high school graduates;
- All clients misused opioids, and all reported using an opioid on the day of intake;
- Clients reported using opioids for an average of almost five years;
- 58 percent of clients reported receiving prior treatment, and 55 percent reported previously trying but failing to access treatment;
- 83 percent of clients had no health insurance at intake;
- 86 percent of clients had a criminal history; and
- 86 percent of police officers surveyed were supportive of Safe Passage.

To be more effective, the report recommended that Safe Passage programs:

- Hire a full-time case manager with a clinical background to assess clients for placement in the proper level of care and offer aftercare services to improve outcomes;
- Enhance police officer training on substance use disorders;
- Ensure the public is aware that assistance is available to clients with any substance use disorder, not just opioid use disorder;
- Ensure the continuation of treatment and aftercare for clients;
- Gather more information at intake to learn who is seeking help and for what substances in order to show trends in drug use and availability in the community; and
- Implement a more formalized follow-up process to measure initiative outcomes.

The report concluded that although more research is needed, the initiative shows promise in connecting clients to treatment with the support of stakeholders, treatment providers and police officers.

Logan County

The Logan County Dept. of Public Health recently [announced](#) that [Home Care of Central Illinois](#), a division of the health department, will cease operations at the end of the year. According to the health department, newer industry regulatory constraints and increased competition from larger agencies made the home health program economically infeasible. For 35 years, the home

care program has provided skilled nursing care and physical, speech and occupational therapies to patients in their homes. Annually, it serves 150 to 200 residents of Christian, DeWitt, Logan, Macon, Mason, McLean, Menard, Piatt, Sangamon, and Tazewell counties. The program is no longer accepting new patient referrals.

[McHenry County](#)

The [McHenry County Mental Health Board](#) announced that it has achieved Illinois' first three-year Behavioral Health Network accreditation from Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF) International. CARF International defines behavioral health network as a legal entity that contracts with two or more participating providers—organizations that provide health or human services—and coordinates the functions between or on behalf of the participating providers.

To achieve this level of accreditation—the highest CARF International gives to an organization—the Mental Health Board underwent a peer review process and demonstrated to a team of surveyors during an on-site visit its commitment to responsible governance of community mental health funds and its coordination of a behavioral health network that values measurable, accountable and high-quality service provision. The Mental Health Board contracts with over 30 providers and coordinates network functions through monthly Network Council and Intake Coordinator meetings, quarterly Quality Management Team meetings, continuous compliance audits, and facilitation of clinical reviews.

[Tazewell County](#)

The Tazewell County Health Department will host [Youth Mental Health First Aid Training](#) for community members on Oct. 26 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The class will emphasize a five-step action plan to offer initial help to those with the signs and symptoms of a mental illness or a crisis, and connect them with the appropriate care. The training costs \$50 per participant.

[City of Alton](#)

The Alton City Council recently voted to increase its monthly sewer service charges by more than 40 percent. The fee for customers' first 1,000 gallons of sewage will increase from \$15.70 to \$22.08, effective Jan. 1. The monthly charge for 1,000 gallons of sewage after the first 1,000 gallons will increase from \$2.35 to \$4.75. Both charges will increase by 2 percent in subsequent years.

[City of Park Ridge](#)

Park Ridge is [accepting applications](#) to fill one vacancy on the Community Health Commission, which seeks to promote healthy living and awareness of opportunities to improve individual, family and community health. The term ends Sept. 30, 2018. Applications are due Oct. 16.

[Village of Hoffman Estates](#)

Hoffman Estates' Dept. of Health and Human Services is hosting "[Take Charge of Your Health](#)," a series of six free workshops for older adults with chronic health conditions such as asthma,

diabetes, arthritis, hypertension, or heart disease. Workshops will take place at the Hoffman Estates Branch Library on Fridays from Oct. 13 through Nov. 17.

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.