



# Illinois Health and Hospital Association

November 9, 2017

## *IHA Weekly Regional Roundup*

### Cook County

The Cook County Board's Finance Committee this week held a budget hearing for the Cook County Health and Hospitals System's (CCHHS) proposed [\\$2.4 billion fiscal year 2018 budget](#). It includes \$12.4 million in cuts following the repeal of the county's Sweetened Beverage Tax, which falls short of the \$27 million in reductions requested by Finance Committee Chairman John Daley (D-11). After the repeal of the tax last month, he had asked county departments to resubmit their budget proposals to reflect a 10 percent cut from Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle's fiscal year 2018 [executive budget recommendation](#).

CCHHS' budget includes approximately \$300 million in pension costs and debt service and \$1.2 billion in restricted funds dedicated specifically to types of care, which cannot be cut. CCHHS officials indicated the system's budget has grown alongside increased enrollments in CountyCare, following the county's purchase of other Medicaid managed care organizations during a statewide overhaul of the program. The budget also reflects the creation of a new central campus health center. Among other factors, increasing costs were attributed to the continued opioid and gun violence crises, along with overtime pay and a continued reliance on outside staffing agencies, due to a national shortage in healthcare employees.

Officials also stated that CCHHS has 6,100 current employees. The system budgeted for 6,836 full-time equivalent positions and roughly 680 vacancies. According to CCHHS, many of these vacancies are in critical positions that have a high turnover rate in the healthcare industry overall.

The Finance Committee's [budget timeline](#) indicates that all budget amendments must be submitted by Nov. 13. The Cook County Board is scheduled to adopt the final 2018 budget on Nov. 21.

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### DuPage County

The DuPage County Health Department is offering a series of "[review and renew](#)" workshops to help residents sign up for or renew health insurance plans through HealthCare.gov. Specially trained community health workers will provide information and enrollment assistance at each workshop. Upcoming sessions will be held on:

- [Nov. 11](#) from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Loaves & Fishes Community Services in Naperville;
- [Nov. 12](#) from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Glenside Public Library District in Glendale Heights;

- [Nov. 16](#) from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Glenside Public Library District in Glendale Heights; and
- [Nov. 18](#) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Glen Ellyn Public Library in Glen Ellyn.

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### [Knox County](#)

The Knox County Health Center is seeking a community member to serve as a representative on its Governance Board. For more information, contact [Staci Simpson](#), Interim Operation Director, Knox County Health Center.

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### [Lake County](#)

The Lake County Health Department recently received a \$1.2 million grant to expand its [Child & Adolescent Behavioral Services](#) (CABS) program. This funding is for the first year of a four-year grant and is expected to support the hire of 20 additional behavioral health specialists to reduce the wait time for young people seeking treatment. CABS provides individual, family, group, respite, and crisis counseling primarily in the community, including schools. Fees for CABS services are based on income level.

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### [LaSalle County](#)

LaSalle County's naloxone program was one of 14 local government initiatives [honored](#) this week with the [Governor's Hometown Award](#), presented by the Serve Illinois Commission. In 2016, LaSalle County Medical Reserve Corps volunteers [trained](#) 103 police officers from 10 departments throughout LaSalle and surrounding counties on using naloxone to reverse an opioid overdose. Less than one month after the first class had been taught, the program had its first save using the nasal form of the drug.

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### [Macon County](#)

Trained Senior Health Insurance Program counselors will be available to assist Medicare beneficiaries with reviewing their prescription drug plan options at two upcoming [Medicare Open Enrollment events](#). Sessions will be held at the Macon County Health Department on Nov. 16 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Beneficiaries are encouraged to schedule an appointment on either day and bring their Medicare cards, as well as a complete list of medications. Medicare Open Enrollment runs until Dec. 7.

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The Macon County Health Department's Caregiver Advisory Services program is beginning a six-week [Savvy Caregiver](#) class for those who care for family members with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia. The program includes information on managing daily life and behaviors, and communicating with a person with dementia, among other topics. The first class will be held on Nov. 15 from 9 to 11 a.m. at the health department.

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### [McHenry County](#)

The McHenry County Mental Health Board recently [allocated](#) more than \$10 million to 31 agencies for fiscal year 2018. The funds will be used to provide prevention, treatment and

recovery support services for McHenry County residents living with mental health, substance use, and intellectual and developmental disability-related needs.

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McHenry County's annual [People in Need Forum](#) will be held on Jan. 27 from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at McHenry County College. The event serves as an informational and networking opportunity for the county's human services agencies and providers. This year's [session topics](#) include suicide, opioids and building a trauma-informed community, among others.

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### **City of Geneva**

The Geneva City Council this week passed an [ordinance](#) levying a 2 percent "Places for Eating" Tax on restaurants and other businesses where prepared food is sold for immediate consumption and where seating is provided. The tax, estimated to generate \$1.5 million annually, may be passed on to consumers. It would become effective May 1, 2018 if a [referendum](#) on the March 20, 2018 ballot—which requests an increase to the non-home rule sales tax from 0.5 percent to 1 percent —is unsuccessful. That increase would become effective July 1, 2018.

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### **Oak Park Township**

Oak Park Township is offering Medicare Part D enrollment assistance to senior citizens and individuals with disabilities through its [Senior Health Insurance Program](#). Counselors are available by appointment to help beneficiaries review their existing coverage and select a drug plan that meets their needs. The enrollment period lasts until Dec. 7.

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### **Village of Manteno**

On Nov. 21, the Manteno Fire Department will host an [information session](#) for community members on senior health and senior mental health concerns. The session will be held from 9 to 11 a.m. at the Leo Hassett Community Center.

*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.*