



Illinois Health and Hospital Association

April 20, 2017

IHA Weekly Regional Roundup

City of Chicago

Following last month's testimony from proponents, the Chicago City Council's Committee on Finance this week heard testimony from opponents of a proposed [ordinance](#) that would limit the number of hours pharmacists can work and the number of prescriptions that can be filled hourly. IHA submitted written testimony opposing the ordinance, indicating, among other issues, that hospitals already have numerous safeguards in place to ensure that the right medication reaches the right patient at the right time. No action was taken by the committee.

The legislation 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, the ordinance would require:

- Limiting prescription filling to no more than 10 prescriptions per hour, and at least 10 pharmacy technician hours per 100 prescriptions filled;
- A minimum of two 15-minute paid rest breaks and one 30-minute meal period in each workday of at least seven hours, and whistleblower protections; and
- Drugstores and pharmacies to maintain five years of records of every prescription written and the original transcript or copy of every verbal prescription filled, compounded or dispensed.

IHA has serious concerns that this ordinance imposes unnecessary operational constraints, significantly increases costs and offers minimal evidence-based strategies for enhancing medication safety. IHA will continue to work with Finance Chairman Ed Burke (14th Ward) and his staff to ensure that hospitals are not negatively impacted by this ordinance.

* * *

The Chicago City Council this week approved Mayor Rahm Emanuel's [ordinance](#) detailing the city's municipal ID program, which was included in the city's fiscal year 2017 budget. The ordinance stipulates that:

- The City Clerk is responsible for overseeing the program;
- The City Clerk will review, but not collect, documents that prove applicants' identify and residence, and will not retain applicants' addresses or phone numbers;

- The municipal ID card will be accepted as valid proof of residency by every city department;
- The City Clerk may establish a fee for municipal ID card applications to cover the program's administration costs; and
- Municipal ID card applicants may self-designate their gender.

The municipal ID card is aimed at helping undocumented immigrants, the homeless and other Chicago residents to access city services, cultural institutions, programs, and other benefits. City Clerk Anna Valencia is expected to release a request for proposals for assistance in administering the program in the coming months, and the first ID cards are expected to be issued by the end of the year.

* * *

Alderman Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35th Ward) introduced at yesterday's City Council meeting an [ordinance](#) that would reinstate Chicago's corporate head tax in an effort to secure more funding for Chicago Public Schools (CPS). The ordinance would impose a \$33 monthly tax on each employee employed by a company with more than 50 employees. 501(c) employers are exempt. Ramirez-Rosa expects the ordinance would generate \$106 million per year, which would automatically be directed to CPS.

* * *

Finance Chairman Ed Burke (14th Ward) introduced a [resolution](#) this week that calls on the Department of Family and Support Services and the Department of Public Health to testify before the Committee on the need and the ability to address violence-induced trauma in children within the City of Chicago. The resolution also supports U.S. Senator Richard Durbin and U.S. Representative Danny Davis' Trauma Informed Care for Children and Families Act, which, among other things, creates a task force to address violence-related trauma for children and families.

[Champaign County](#)

Champaign County is [accepting](#) applications for two vacancies on the Board of Health for terms beginning July 1, 2017 and expiring June 30, 2020. [Applications](#) are due May 19.

[Grundy County](#)

Grundy County Administrator Doug Pryor announced that he will resign at the end of May in order to accept a new position. The county is expected to begin searching for Pryor's successor in the coming weeks.

[Lake County](#)

Lake County [announced](#) the rollout of its new [permit and inspection system](#), which integrates multiple county departments including Health, Planning, Building & Development, Division of Transportation, Public Works, and the Stormwater Management Commission into a single unified permitting system. Customers will be able to submit and pay for many permit

applications online and review the status of their applications and inspections using their home computer. The new technology is designed to improve inter-departmental efficiencies, enhance customer service, improve communication, and reduce the amount of time it takes for permits and inspections.

McHenry County

The McHenry County Board approved Chairman Jack Franks (D) and board member Andrew Gasser's (R) [resolution](#) that sets a goal of reducing the county's 2018 property tax levy by 10 percent. Per the resolution, County Administrator Peter Austin and an ad-hoc Committee on Tax Reduction will develop recommendations for reducing the levy by nearly \$8 million by June 30, and these will be used to develop the 2018 budget.

* * *

The Circuit Court of the 22nd Judicial Circuit announced that the McHenry County Drug Court and Mental Health Court were approved for certification, becoming the first operational courts to receive certification in Illinois. In 2015, the Illinois Supreme Court adopted the Problem-Solving Courts Standards for all of the circuit courts in Illinois to set the minimum requirements for the planning, establishment, certification, operation, and evaluation of all problem-solving courts in the state.

Both the Drug Court and the Mental Health Court are intended to work with criminal defendants who are at high risk of committing new offenses and have a great need for treatment services. These courts are specifically designed to identify individuals who suffer from addiction or mental illness and commit crimes; they are then diverted from the traditional criminal justice system and are provided access to residential treatment, intensive outpatient treatment and probation services.

Will County

On April 21, Will County HELPS (Heroin Education Leads to Preventative Solutions), HERO (Heroin Epidemic Relief Organization) and the Southwest Coalition for Substance Abuse Issues—organizations dedicated to addressing the opioid epidemic—[will host](#) “On the Front Line: Fighting the Heroin/Opioid Epidemic in Illinois,” the fifth annual community forum on heroin and opioid addiction issues. The event will feature a panel discussion on innovative strategies to reduce opioid abuse and drive down demand for heroin.

Cities of Champaign and Urbana

The Champaign-Urbana Public Health District (CUPHD) released its [2016 Annual Report](#). Among other accomplishments, the report highlighted:

- The expansion of the CUPHD food pantry to include a large supply of fresh produce and bread available every day that CUPHD is open;
- The multiple community outreach events conducted by CUPHD's Emergency Preparedness Program to build community resiliency;

- The Training and Exercise Planning Workshop with community partners to discuss CUPHD's annual training/exercise schedule for emergency preparedness; and
 - The evidence-based research projects conducted by the Public Health Institute for Research and Excellence, CUPHD's research arm.
-

State of Illinois

On behalf of its member hospitals, IHA is working with local governments to designate May 11 as "Healthcare Worker Appreciation Day" in recognition of the outstanding service healthcare professionals provide at work and in their communities. IHA thanks Gov. Bruce Rauner, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, the Kane County Board, Lake County Board Chairman Aaron Lawlor, McHenry County and the Will County Board for issuing proclamations marking this day and recognizing the year-round dedication, contribution and achievements of healthcare workers.

Join IHA in celebrating the contributions of healthcare workers and providers from across the state as part of the IHA Healthcare and Hospital Recognition Luncheon, [Purpose Begins With You](#), on May 11 at the United Club at Soldier Field in Chicago. Hospital leaders are invited to attend with the employees they would like to honor. Bertice Berry, Ph.D., an award-winning author and entertainer, will be the keynote speaker. [Click here](#) to register. For more information, contact [David Strickland](#).

For more information, please contact:

Sarah Calder
Director, Government Relations
312-906-6141
SCalder@team-iha.org

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.