



Illinois Health and Hospital Association

August 10, 2017

IHA Weekly Regional Roundup

City of Chicago

The city of Chicago [filed](#) a federal lawsuit on Monday to prevent the U.S. Dept. of Justice (DOJ) from making a federal crime prevention grant conditional on immigration enforcement actions. The lawsuit follows DOJ's [announcement](#) that it will not provide the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant (Byrne JAG)—the leading source of federal justice funding to state and local jurisdictions—to cities and states with “sanctuary city” policies, like Chicago’s.

The DOJ’s recently released Byrne JAG application requires that municipalities meet certain conditions to be eligible for funding, including:

- Certification of compliance with a federal statute that bars restrictions on federal-local sharing of immigration status information;
- Access to local police stations and law enforcement facilities by U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS) personnel to interrogate arrestees; and
- Requiring cities to provide DHS with at least 48-hours’ notice prior to an arrestee’s release.

The city’s lawsuit asks for an injunction on the inclusion of those grant conditions in current and future applications, as well as for a declaration that the city complies with the above federal statute barring restrictions on federal-local sharing of immigration status information.

According to the city, it received \$2.3 million in Byrne JAG funds last year. Among other purposes, it previously has used the grant funds to purchase SWAT equipment, police vehicles, radios, and tasers.

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At a meeting of investors yesterday, Mayor Rahm Emanuel reportedly indicated that he plans to create a new finance authority to issue general obligation debt on behalf of the city, under new powers in the state’s 2018 budget passed last month. The budget gives municipalities with home rule authority the ability to create an "issuing entity" to issue state revenue-backed bonds on behalf of a local government. This would allow Chicago to borrow money at a lower cost, since the entity would have a better credit rating than the city. The corporation would be legally and structurally insulated from the city. In the event of a fiscal crisis or bankruptcy,

principal and interest payments would be protected. The city purportedly plans to use a portion of sales tax the state remits to Chicago to secure the bonds.

If the city refinanced up to \$2.5 billion in debt in this way, it could save up to an estimated \$75 million per year. The move is intended to reduce the city's debt load and improve its credit ratings. The City Council would have to approve the establishments of the issuing entity's board and members.

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The Chicago City Council's Committee on Finance held a hearing this week on Chairman Ed Burke (14th Ward) and Ald. Sophia King's (4th Ward) previously introduced [resolution](#) on curtailing prescription drug costs and their proposed [Chicago Drug Pricing Transparency Ordinance](#). The ordinance calls for the Chicago Dept. of Public Health (CDPH) to establish a prescription drug price review board that would:

- Review trend anomalies in the list price of medications dispensed or prescribed through CDPH's services directly or through its public and private partnerships;
- Publish an annual report highlighting prescription drug pricing trends within the city of Chicago and where the data suggests the need for legislative, administrative or other policy changes;
- Release public advisory opinions concerning pricing practices for specific drugs, drug classes or drug manufacturers; and
- Establish a pharmaceutical price watch hotline to accept information about pharmaceutical price increases from the public.

The ordinance would also require that pharmaceutical manufacturers whose drugs are sold in Chicago notify CDPH 90 days in advance of any increase of more than 25 percent for generic drugs and 10 percent for name brand drugs. If approved, the ordinance would become effective 180 days after its passage, although it is uncertain if there will be a committee vote on the ordinance.

At the hearing, only witnesses in support of the two measures, as well as representatives from CDPH, were asked to testify. The meeting recessed to a future date when those opposed will have an opportunity to testify.

[Cook County](#)

Cook County this week withdrew a lawsuit seeking damages from the Illinois retailers that sued the county over the new sweetened beverage tax. The county estimates it lost \$17 million in revenue due to a temporary restraining order that delayed the tax collection by a month.

Following a Cook County Circuit Court judge's dismissal of the Illinois retailers' case, the retailers appealed the court's ruling. The Appellate Court has rejected the retailers' request to

again prevent the county from collecting the sweetened beverage tax while the case is under consideration.

In response to the county's lawsuit against Illinois retailers, Cook County Board Commissioner Richard Boykin (District 1) announced this week that he plans to introduce an ordinance that would require County Board approval for court actions involving significant damages. His ordinance is expected to require notification from the Cook County state's attorney before filing a court action for damages over \$100,000. Similarly, the County Board's Finance Subcommittee on Litigation would have to sign off on suits that seek damages of more than \$500,000.

In a [letter](#) published yesterday, Boykin criticized the sweetened beverage tax, the county's lawsuit against the Illinois retailers and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle's county budget cuts. Although the Cook County Board is not scheduled to meet until next month, he proposed an emergency board meeting this month to consider alternative ways to implement reforms and achieve savings in the county's budget. He additionally recommended instituting a hiring freeze and eliminating the more than 1,500 county government positions that are vacant but included in the budget.

[Adams County](#)

The Adams County Suicide Prevention Coalition recently launched a [new website](#) with information about depression and suicide, resources for those struggling with suicidal thoughts and their friends and family, and a collection of local mental health resources. The coalition—which includes healthcare organizations, school systems, social service agencies, and local nonprofits—seeks to provide suicide prevention information to people of all ages through a variety of media.

[DuPage County](#)

The DuPage County Health Department recently received [three national awards](#):

- The DuPage Narcan Program (DNP) received the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) "Model Practice Award," which honored local health departments for developing programs that demonstrate exemplary and replicable best practices in response to a critical local public health need. Started in 2013, the DNP was the first county-wide opioid overdose prevention program in Illinois to be approved by the Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse;
- NACCHO also recognized the DuPage County Health Department as the "Silver Local Health Department of the Year" among health departments serving more than 500,000 residents, for its strong alliances with partners in order to bridge the gap between clinical medicine and population health. The health department's integrated primary care partnership with AMITA at Southeast Public Health Center, the Ready, Set, Smile dental initiative and Engage DuPage program were highlighted as key accomplishments; and

- The National Public Health Information Coalition presented the “Bronze Award for Excellence in Public Health Communication” in the "Thinking on Your Feet/Real-Time Risk Communication" category to the DuPage County Health Department for communication preparedness that translated into successful emergency response action. The award recognized the health department's communications with external and community partners regarding a multi-state outbreak of Seoul virus infection of 17 people in seven states in early 2017.

McHenry County

On Sept. 15, the McHenry County Mental Health Board and the McHenry County Suicide Prevention Task Force will host the [Suicide Prevention, Mental Health Wellness & Recovery Conference](#) at McHenry County College. The conference, themed *Uniting Our Voices, Strength and Recovery*, will promote public awareness of mental health concerns, the prevalence of suicide and substance abuse. [Registration](#) is open.

McLean County

Rich Buchanan (R-District 7) announced this week that he will resign from the McLean County Board for health reasons. He was first elected to the County Board in 2012, and his current term expires in 2018. The County Board will accept applications from those interested in representing District 7 until Sept. 7. The board is expected to fill the vacancy at its September meeting.

Will County

At the most recent meeting of the Will County Board’s Public Health and Safety Committee, Will County Director of Substance Abuse Initiatives Kathleen Burke, Ph.D., provided an [update](#) on the opioid crisis. She reported that the Will County Coroner’s Office recorded 35 overdose deaths involving heroin or a synthetic version of the drug between Jan. 1 and July 31, 2017, a figure lower than the 44 overdose deaths reported in the same period in 2016. Dr. Burke indicated the higher-than-expected use of the opioid-reversal drug naloxone by county first responders could be part of the reason for the decrease. Between Jan. 1 and July 31, 2017, the most overdose deaths were reported in Joliet, which had 13 cases. Lockport, Bolingbrook and Romeoville each had three cases in the first half of 2017.

City of Aurora

The city of Aurora is accepting applications from local non-profit organizations for its [2018 Quality of Life Grants](#). Funding is awarded to organizations that provide services for Aurora residents in the areas of: child care and youth; education; job training; homelessness; elderly and disabled; or veterans. The [application](#) deadline is Sept. 15. Funding for the 2018 grant season will be available in late January.

Village of Oak Park

The Oak Park Village Board unanimously approved [legislation](#) requiring retailers with a floor area of 5,000 square feet or greater to charge customers a 10-cent fee for every single-use paper or plastic bag distributed. According to the ordinance, the village and retailers will each

retain five cents from the tax. Bags exempt from the legislation include those provided by a pharmacist that contain prescription drugs and those provided by restaurants to take home prepared or leftover food. The tax becomes effective Jan. 1.

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