

Constantino, Mike

From: anne.murphy@hklaw.com
Sent: Monday, July 25, 2011 1:17 PM
To: Constantino, Mike
Cc: Avery, Courtney; rmark@ccbhs.org
Subject: Project 11-037 (Discontinuation of Oak Forest Hospital): RELEASE: President Preckwinkle Continues Commitment to Quality Health Care (Attachment)
Attachments: Resolution Opposing Medicaid Cuts 07-12-11.pdf

Mike,

As you know, the pending CON permit application to discontinue Oak Forest Hospital (Project 11-037) indicates that Cook County Board President Preckwinkle will appoint an advisory council to provide input to the President's Office on health care service delivery in the southern part of Cook County. As is reflected in the press release below, the President has now appointed the 11-member Southland Health Advisory Council. At the Council's initial meeting, the referenced vision statement was adopted.

I ask that this email, the press release, and the attached resolution be made part of the record for Project 11-037.

As always, thank you.

--Anne Murphy

Anne Murphy | Holland & Knight

Partner

131 South Dearborn Street, 30th Floor | Chicago IL 60603

Phone 312.578.6544 | Fax 312.578.6666

anne.murphy@hklaw.com | www.hklaw.com

[Add to address book](#) | [View professional biography](#)



**Office of the Cook County Board President
Toni Preckwinkle**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2011

CONTACT

President's Press Office

(312) 254-6211

President Preckwinkle Continues Commitment to Quality Health Care

Passes Resolution Opposing Proposed Medicaid Cuts, Creates Southland Health Advisory Council

The day after introducing and passing a resolution with the Cook County Board urging against opposing deep, proposed cuts to Medicaid, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle announced today the membership of the Southland Health Advisory Council, keeping a promise she made in June.

"We promised to announce a Southland Health Advisory Council, to create a way for faith and community leaders to have input on the future of health care in the Southland. We are grateful to all those who have agreed to serve, and I look forward to their recommendations."

The Medicaid resolution, which is attached, declares that the proposed cuts would "fundamentally recalculate" the federal healthcare dollars available to the County's Health & Hospitals System through the State of Illinois, and that commissioners, "formally reassert our support for the preservation of Medicaid funding."

"There is widespread support for Medicare for the elderly," President Preckwinkle said. "But when it comes to Medicaid for low-income children, pregnant women, the blind, the disabled, and those requiring nursing-home care, we're all too eager to drop our social obligations."

The resolution stresses how the County's three safety-net hospitals – Stroger, Provident and Oak Forest – have historically provided billions of dollars in uncompensated care to those in need. "Cuts and other alterations in Medicaid funding couldn't possibly be made up at the local level," Preckwinkle added. It passed the Board on an 11-3-3 vote.

The resolution and the Southland Health Advisory Council are the latest in a series of steps taken by President Preckwinkle to demonstrate her commitment to strengthening care delivery, improving access and reducing the economic burden of the Cook County Health and Hospitals System on tax payers. She has gone to Washington, DC several times to speak with members of the Illinois Congressional Delegation about the need to protect Medicaid funding and the economic impact it would have on safety net hospitals.

The first meeting of the Southland Health Advisory Council was last week. The eleven-member council drafted a vision statement, and they will continue to meet and provide counsel to the President about public health care for the Southland. The draft vision statement and list of members are listed below:

"The Southland Health Advisory Council will advise the Office of the President and the Cook County Health and Hospitals System on both the common and unique challenges of health care in Chicago's southland, working to identify service needs, present challenges, and advocate for the needs of the community. The first meeting generated a common theme – the need for regional provision of healthcare in the southland that links County facilities, federally qualified health care centers, and the participation of private hospitals. The Southland Health Advisory Council has agreed to meet at least once per quarter, with the ability to call special meetings where appropriate. The Council will meet in advance of the August 16th Illinois Health Facilities Review Board meeting to speak with Dr. Terry Mason, CCHHS CEO, about the proposal to transform Oak Forest Hospital into a regional outpatient center."

Apostle Carl White is the pastor of Victory Christian Assembly, and the leader of the Southland Ministerial Health Network.

Salim Al-Nurridin is the Executive Director of the Healthcare Consortium of Illinois.

Jennifer Artis is the Director of Public Affairs at St. James Hospital.

David Miller represented parts of the Southland as a member of the Illinois House of Representatives for ten years. He has also owned a private dentistry in Dolton for over twenty years.

Nancy Kolanowski is a retired local government official who worked for the Village of Dolton.

John Ostenburg is the Mayor of Park Forest, and a former staff member of the Chicago Teachers Union.

Joan Diane Adams-Alsberry is the President of Kids Health Inc., and Vice President of Caring Assistive Living Management Inc. in Matteson Illinois.

William McNary is Co-Director of Citizen Action, Illinois.

Mercedes Mallette is a retired community activist. She is on the Board of Directors of TCA Health, Inc. and a member of the Southland Human Services Leadership Council Health Committee and the Southland Leadership Roundtable.

Sharon Freyer is the former Chief Nursing Officer of Oak Forest Hospital.

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Submitting a Proposed Resolution Sponsored by

TONI PRECKWINKLE, President

Co-Sponsored by

WILLIAM M. BEAVERS, JERRY BUTLER, JOAN PATRICIA MURPHY, DEBORAH SIMS and ROBERT B. STEELE,
County Commissioners

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Cook County Health & Hospitals System is the largest provider of safety-net healthcare services within the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Health & Hospitals System serves patients from across the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the three public hospitals that compose the Cook County Health & Hospitals System have provided billions of dollars in uncompensated care since their establishment to those who require care the most; and

WHEREAS, it is the uninsured and medically indigent residents of the State of Illinois who rely upon the Cook County Health & Hospitals System the most for a broad range of health services; and

WHEREAS, Medicaid funding is critical to the Cook County Health & Hospitals System to maintain its historic role as a safety-net provider of healthcare to improve the health and well-being of all residents of Cook County; and

WHEREAS, the Medicaid Disproportionate Share (DSH) Program and other Medicaid funding provides critical dollars for the Cook County Health & Hospitals System for its large costs of uninsured care that it provides to members of the county community; and

WHEREAS, the President of the United States and the United States Congress are currently in negotiations to consider spending reductions and entitlement reforms to address the federal deficit and the federal debt limit which is currently projected to be reached on August 2, 2011; and

WHEREAS, severe reductions to Medicaid are currently under consideration in Washington, DC, including "blended" Medicaid rates, reductions to the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Program and elimination of provider fee programs; and

WHEREAS, reductions to Medicaid and the Disproportionate Share Program would fundamentally recalculate the available dollars that are available to the State of Illinois and the Cook County Health and Hospitals System for treatment of those individuals who rely upon our health network for care; and

WHEREAS, substituting current rates at which the federal government currently reimburses states for health services provided under Medicaid for a "blended" reimbursement rate would shift additional costs to the states and ultimately, the Cook County Health and Hospitals System; and