

Interesting Times Indeed...

The news regarding the Cook County Health and Hospitals System continues to be somewhat hopeful. The newly installed Interim Board of Directors forwarded a budget to the County Commissioners and it passed without amendment on November 7th.

The financial reality for County government is troubled. All public services are being severely stressed by the international downturn. However, the short term prospects for health services in the County are, at the moment, not too bad.

The financial downturn obviously will increase the number of Cook County folks seeking care from the public sector, so we have a lose-lose situation looming at this very moment. Obviously the initiatives from the new administration nationally will face the challenge to turn the present situation around.

Health and Medicine's two years of planning has been seeking to approach health care needs in northern Illinois from a regional perspective. Our efforts are paying off. On November 13th, we convened a very successful planning meeting of the agencies concerned with health care safety net issues. A set of priorities for the region was achieved.

The Chinese curse, "may you live in interesting times" is upon us. These are indeed very interesting times.