

Comprehensive Resource Guide

Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
May 2022

Health & Medicine
POLICY RESEARCH GROUP

CENTER FOR LONG-TERM CARE REFORM

Illinois Aging Together, the main current initiative of the Center for Long-Term Care Reform, is a campaign for aging equity in Illinois. Learn more, view additional resources, and support the campaign at IllinoisAgingTogether.org.

The Center works toward a just society that enables people to age well across the entire life course and an equitable system of long-term services and supports so that people can live according to their own goals and values, without exploitation or unmet needs. The Center advocates for caregiving that supports both the needs and rights of older persons and caregivers.

- **COVID-19 Cases and Deaths in Skilled Nursing Facilities in Cook County, Illinois** (2021)
- **Long-Term Care Reform in Illinois: 2019 Agenda for Change** (2019)
- **Critical Issues: Illinois' Managed Care "Re-Boot"** (2017)
- **Quality Matters: A Managed Care Approach to Disparity Reduction** (2016)
- **Quality Matters: Getting Readmissions Penalties Right** (2016)
- **Addressing Inequities in Care Transitions** (2014)

Staff

Wesley Epplin, *Policy Director*: wepplin@hmprg.org

Brigitte Dietz, *Health & Aging Policy Analyst*: bdietz@hmprg.org

Sandy Pastore, *Health & Aging Policy Organizer*: spastore@hmprg.org

CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH EQUITY

Health & Medicine's Center for Public Health Equity advances health justice through progressive public health policy reform, best practices research, leading convening of public health partners, and collaborative practice. Since advancing social justice and health equity is at the heart of all of Health & Medicine's work, the Center for Public Health Equity seeks to sharpen that focus internally and ensure that policy agendas and resources are directed toward achievement of health equity.

Policy Analysis, Recommendations, and Reports

- **Health & Medicine Policy Agenda** (2022)
- **Reply to Dr. Allison Arwady, Commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health urging them to deny the permit to General Iron** (2021)
- **Pass the Just Cause for Evictions Ordinance. Protect and Promote Public Health by Reducing Evictions in Chicago** (2021)
- **Analysis: Health Equity Requires Defunding and Abolishing the Police** (2020)
- **Creating a Health Equity Agenda for the City of Chicago's 2019 Municipal Elections: Forum Report on Issues, Needs, and Policy Ideas** (2019)
- **Recommendations for Measuring Structural Racism in Chicago** (2016)

Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor

- **Why Lightfoot and her public health chief should deny this permit** (2021)
- **Chicago needs the 'just cause for eviction' ordinance** (2021)
- **Health equity requires bold social movements** (2020)
- **3 ways Emanuel can slow down gentrification** (2018)
- **Does Chicago really need more police officers?** (2017)
- **Where's Rauner?** (2017)
- **Consider the long-term consequences** (2017)
- **More police? What about more teachers?** (2016)
- **Illinois' Larger Tax Issue** (2016)
- **Future should include health** (2016)
- **A Healthier Chicago** (2016)
- (2016)
- **Illinois needs a budget. Gov. Rauner, let's get it done** (2016)

Testimonies

- **#StopGeneralIron: Testimony at Campaign Press Conference** (2021)
- **Testimony to Housing and Real Estate Committee of the Chicago City Council** (2021)
- **Testimony to Cook County Commissioners Against Racist Gang Database** (2019)
- **Testimony to City Council** (2018)
- **No Cop Academy: Testimony to Housing and Real Estate Committee, Chicago City Council** (2017)

- **Testimony to Progressive Reform Caucus: FY 2018 Budget** (2017)
- **Health in All Policies: Testimony to City Council** (2016)

As part of the Center for Public Health Equity, the **Health & Medicine Forum for Justice in Health Policy** examines issues of health and health systems reform and health equity, exploring how Illinois can strengthen our health care safety net and expand and improve care for all. The forum discussions regularly convene health advocates, researchers, providers, academics, and students to discuss complex health policy and practice issues. *Explore our [forum archive](#) for past recordings, resources, and speaker slides.*

The Center works on public health system funding and capacity building, community health improvement and other public planning consulting, and training and technical assistance focused on health organizing, health equity, and social determinants of health. For more information, contact the Center at consulting@hmprg.org.

Staff

Wesley Epplin, *Policy Director*: wepplin@hmprg.org

Mariam Siddiqui, *Health Policy Analyst*: msiddiqui@hmprg.org

HEALTH WORKFORCE

In our work to improve the health of all people in Illinois, Health & Medicine recognizes that developing a robust, highly trained, and culturally responsive health workforce is central to achieving our mission. Our decades of leadership promoting the development of workforce policies and strengthening the health careers pipeline have made Health & Medicine Illinois' leading health workforce research and policy organization. Our workforce programming promotes policies and strategies to ensure that Illinois has the workforce necessary to meet the needs of a rapidly changing health system and an increasingly diverse population. Our efforts focus on shaping and expanding current policy while also developing the next generation of health workers.

- **West Suburban Community Health Worker Initiative Year 3 Report** (2022)
- **CHW Fact Sheet – Illinois Health Care and Human Service Reform Act** (2022)
- **IL CHW Policy Forum Handout** (2022)
- **Testimony to Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services** (2021)
- **West Suburban CHW Initiative Year 2 Report** (2021)
- **Testimony on HB 5448 to Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services** (2021)
- **West Suburban CHW Initiative Year 1 Report** (2020)
- **Deploying Community Health Workers for Critical COVID-19 Contact Tracing** (2020)
- **Policy to Advance Community Health Workers in Illinois: Contact Tracing & COVID-19** (2020)
- **Efficient Health Workforce Data Collection in Illinois** (2017)

Staff

Sheronda Kimbrough, *Director, Workforce Programs*: skimbrough@hmprg.org

Angela Eastlund, *Workforce Policy Analyst*: aeastlund@hmprg.org

Kirstin Williams Smith, *Senior Policy Analyst, Workforce*: ksmith@hmprg.org

CHICAGO AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER (AHEC)

The Chicago Area Health Education Center is part of the National AHEC Organization (NAO) developed by Congress in 1971 to recruit, train, and retain a health professions workforce committed to under-served populations. Locally, within the Illinois AHEC Network, the Chicago AHEC program provides a link between needed health resources and local communities. The goal of Chicago AHEC is to meet primary care and public health workforce needs in the Chicago area. Activities include health careers promotion, professional education and support, and community-based student education.

- **Sustainable Career Pathways for Contact Tracers** (2020)
- **Addressing the Absence of African American Men in Chicago-Area Medical Schools** (2019)
- **Health Careers Handbook** (2019)
- **Chicago AHEC FY2018 Annual Report** (2018)
- **Top 10 Things They Don't Tell You About Financing Your College Education** (2018)
- **Chicago AHEC FY17 Annual Report** (2017)
- **Criminalization of People of Color as a Barrier to Diversifying the Health Workforce: Sentencing & Incarceration** (2018)
- **Criminalization of People of Color as a Barrier to Diversifying the Health Workforce: Arrests & Detainment** (2017)
- **Criminalization of People of Color as a Barrier to Diversifying the Health Workforce: Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)** (2017)

Staff

Sheronda Kimbrough, *Director, Workforce Programs*: skimbrough@hmprg.org

Sara Wright-Pupo, *Chicago AHEC Program Coordinator*: swrightpupo@hmprg.org

CHICAGO AREA SCHWEITZER FELLOWS PROGRAM

Founded in 1996, Health & Medicine's Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program cultivates aspiring health and human services professionals to be informed, concerned, and involved with addressing health inequities. Each year, the Schweitzer Program provides 30 exceptional students with opportunities to design and implement projects to improve the health and well-being of underserved Chicago communities. Fellows' projects often address the social determinants of health, and their activities frequently include tutoring, violence prevention, health education, healthy lifestyles promotion, and outreach to vulnerable and marginalized groups. Our Fellows for Life alumni program supports our graduates' further development as leaders in service, and provides them with continuing networking, skill-building and community service opportunities.

- **Historical List of Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows** (2022)
- **Schweitzer Fellow Site Locations** (2022)
- **25th Anniversary Video: Celebrating 25 Years of Social Justice in Action** (2021)
- **Environmental Scan Report** (2021)
- **Surveying the Impact on Alumni and Communities** (2016)

Staff

Maya Bauer, *Schweitzer Fellows Program Director*: mbauer@hmprg.org

Shajaya Martinez, *Schweitzer Fellows Program Coordinator*: smartinez@hmprg.org

HEALTH REFORM AND SAFETY NET TRANSFORMATION

Health & Medicine's Health Reform and Safety Net Transformation initiative works to strengthen the safety net—such as the protection of charity care in area hospitals—in Cook County and across Illinois. As health reforms are enacted locally and national, our health systems reform leadership is central to developing thoughtful implementation strategies to expand care for all Illinois residents while also assuring that stakeholder voices are heard and integrated into new policies.

- **A Checkup for Cook County's Safety Net: A Qualitative Review of Health Reform** (2019)
- **Beyond the Clinic: A National Health Equity Review Implications for our local safety net** (2018)
- **A Qualitative Review of Chicago's West Suburban Safety Net: Consequences, Adaptation, and Recommendations for Future Reform** (2018)
- **Strengthening the Safety Net After Health Reform: An Examination of the Cook County Safety Net** (2016)

Op-Eds and Letters to the Editor

- **Cook County Health board should remain independent** (2020)
- **Letter: Don't slash Medicaid safety net** (2015)
- **Rauner's Medicaid cuts are a drain on Illinois economy** (2015)

Testimonies

- **Testimony to Cook County Health Board** (2020, 2021)
- **Testimony to Cook County Health and Hospitals Systems Board** (April 2017, September 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)
- **Testimony to Cook County Strategic Planning Community Engagement** (2018, 2022)
- **Testimony to Cook County Health and Hospitals Systems Board - Public Health Woke Coalition** (2017)
- **Protect All People: Testimony to Cook County Health and Hospitals Systems** (2017)
- **Testimony on Cook County FY Preliminary Budget Hearing** (2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021)

Staff

Wesley Epplin, *Policy Director*: wepplin@hmprg.org

Mariam Siddiqui, *Health Policy Analyst*: msiddiqui@hmprg.org

ILLINOIS ACES RESPONSE COLLABORATIVE

The Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative (the Collaborative) is a broad range of multi-sectoral stakeholders committed to expanding the understanding of trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and their impact on the health and well-being of Illinois children, families, communities, and systems. Our mission is to catalyze a cross-sector movement to prevent trauma and promote thriving across lifespan and to place the impact of childhood experience on wellbeing at the forefront of the equity agenda in Illinois. Our vision is a thriving and equitable Illinois in which individuals, families, communities, and all systems and sectors work together to prevent trauma, heal, and flourish.

Policy

- **Action Plan to Address Childhood Adversity in Illinois** (2021)
- **Creating a Universal Newborn Support System (UNSS) in Illinois: An Assessment of Opportunity Based on Wisdom and Experience from the Field: [Policy Brief](#) and [Full Report](#)** (2021)
- **Policy Approaches to Addressing Childhood Adversity: Findings from a Policy Scan of 2019 State-Level Legislation** (2020)
- **Trauma-Informed Policymaking Tool** (2019)
- **Trauma-Informed Chicago Summit Summary Report** (2019)
- **Widening the Lens on ACEs: The Role of Community in Trauma, Resilience, and Thriving** (2019)
- **ACEs for Health Systems and Providers: [Summary Brief](#) and [Full Brief](#)** (2017)
- **ACEs and the Juvenile and Criminal Justice Systems: [Summary Brief](#) and [Full Brief](#)** (2017)
- **ACEs for Educators and Stakeholders: [Summary Brief](#) and [Full Brief](#)** (2017)

Research

- **Childhood Experiences Influence Student Outcomes** (2021)
- **Findings from the 2018 Environmental Scan: Aligning Hospitals to Promote Trauma-Informed, Healing-Centered Transformation in Chicago** (2020)
- **Findings from the 2018 Health Department Environmental Scan** (2018)
- **Findings from the 2018 Environmental Scan: Learnings from Organizations that are Addressing Trauma** (2018)
- **Findings from the 2016 Environmental Scan: Programs Addressing ACEs and Trauma in Illinois** (2016)
- **Findings from the 2013 BRFSS Report: Adverse Childhood Experiences: Understanding Health Risks Across Generations in Illinois and Chicago** (2013)
- **Supporting the Healthcare Workforce: Understanding Burnout, Its Impacts, and What Can Be Done About It** (2018)
- **The Parent-Child Dyad in the Context of Child Development and Child Health** (2018)

- **Trauma-Informed Care: Laying the Groundwork for Investment by Healthcare Systems** (2018)

Implementation Resources

- **Trauma-Informed Hospital Workgroups: A Resource Guide for Launching and Sustaining a Workgroup** (2020)
- **Trauma-Informed Approaches for Supporting Families with Opioid Misuse** (2019)
- **Trauma-Informed Care and Oral Health: Recommendations for Practitioners** (2019)
- **Five How-Tos of Trauma-Informed Practice** (2019)
- **ACEs, Trauma, and Resilience Resources** (2019)

The Collaborative's webinar series connects our members with innovative and evidence-informed policies and practices related to childhood adversity. *Explore our [webinar archive](#) to view our past events and speakers.*

The Collaborative has extensive experience providing technical assistance to hospitals, health departments, social service organizations, and county-level initiatives to help them advance their trauma-informed organizational transformation. Visit [our website](#) for more information on our trainings.

Staff

Bridget Gavaghan, *Director, Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative*: bgavaghan@hmprg.org

Mayra Diaz, *Policy Analyst, Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative*: mdiaz@hmprg.org

Madison Hammett, *Manager, Training & Capacity Building, Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative*:
mhammett@hmprg.org

Health & Medicine Policy Research Group (Health & Medicine) works to improve the health of all people in Illinois by advancing health equity.

The Health & Medicine mission is to promote social justice and challenge inequities in health and health care. We are an independent policy center that conducts research, educates, and collaborates with other groups to advocate policies and impact health systems to improve the health status of all people.

The Health & Medicine vision is a society free of social inequities, with a healthy population accessing high quality health care, delivered in trauma-informed, comprehensive health systems by culturally competent providers.

Health & Medicine Staff

Margie Schaps, *Executive Director*: mschaps@hmprg.org

Gita Krishnaswamy, *Deputy Director*: gkrishnaswamy@hmprg.org

Maya Bauer, *Schweitzer Fellows Program Director*: mbauer@hmprg.org

Leandra Carlyle, *Administrative Assistant*: lcarlyle@hmprg.org

Anaga Dalal, *Communications & Development Coordinator*: adalal@hmprg.org

Mayra Diaz, *Policy Analyst, Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative*: mdiaz@hmprg.org

Brigitte Dietz, *Health & Aging Policy Analyst*: bdietz@hmprg.org

Ann Duffy, *Director of Finance and Operations*: aduffy@hmprg.org

Angela Eastlund, *Workforce Policy Analyst*: aeastlund@hmprg.org

Wesley Epplin, *Policy Director*: wepplin@hmprg.org

Bridget Gavaghan, *Director, Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative*: bgavaghan@hmprg.org

Madison Hammett, *Manager, Training & Capacity Building, Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative*:
mhammett@hmprg.org

Sheronda Kimbrough, *Director, Workforce Programs, AHEC*: skimbrough@hmprg.org

Shajaya Martinez, *Schweitzer Fellows Program Coordinator*: smartinez@hmprg.org

Sandy Pastore, *Health & Aging Policy Organizer*: spastore@hmprg.org

Mariam Siddiqui, *Health Policy Analyst*: msiddiqui@hmprg.org

Kirstin Williams Smith, *Senior Policy Analyst, Workforce*: ksmith@hmprg.org

Shannon Sweetnam, *Director of Development & Communications*: ssweetnam@hmprg.org

Sara Wright-Pupo, *Chicago AHEC Program Coordinator*: swrightpupo@hmprg.org