

# Historical Timeline of Significant Activities

## 1981-2021





Health & Medicine Policy Research Group (Health & Medicine) was formed in 1981, as the nation's shifting political climate focused on smaller government and less support for health and social supports to those in greatest need.

At the same time, Chicago health and social justice advocate Quentin D. Young, MD, had just left his long-term position leading Cook County Hospital's Department of Medicine and pondered the next phase of his activism. Along with a group of fellow health justice activists, Dr. Young decided to form a health policy think tank to research, educate, and convene stakeholders to challenge health inequities and improve the health of all people in Illinois. They envisioned a nimble and responsive "action tank" that would address urgent issues as they arose; oppose the exploitation of the health system for profit and support health care as a human right; promote the elimination of health inequities, have a working board, and act independently of institutional ties and obligations.

As Health & Medicine has grown, we have taken on a wide variety of issues, but our commitment to our founding values has never wavered.

We welcome you to join us on our journey to improve the health and well-being of all people in Illinois.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margie Schaps". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Margie Schaps, MPH  
Executive Director

**Our Mission** is to build power and momentum for social justice and health equity in Illinois.

**Our Vision** is a society free of social and health inequities so that all people can attain their full potential.

**Our Timeline** shows our commitment to improving health equity day in and day out.

# 1980s

## Rethinking & Reforming Systems of Care

- Proposed that \$1.5b budgeted for Medicaid be used to support the Illinois Health Service Authority, a statewide network of county operated health delivery systems (1982)
- Chaired Health Committee of Mayor-elect Harold Washington's Health Transition Team (1983-84)
- Supported Quentin D. Young as President of Chicago Board of Health (1984)
- Developed and published Health and Medicine's first policy proposal to reform Medicaid in Illinois (1984)
- Served on the commission establishing the need for a new Cook County Hospital, calling for integrating inpatient and outpatient facilities, existing health service, and a replacement hospital (1987)
- Consulted for the City of Chicago, Cook County, and State of Illinois Health Care Summit to set public health goals and safety net standards for the next decade (1989)
- Led Urban Public Health System study tours in US and Canada with legislators, civic and community leaders to examine and compare systems of care (1989-92)

## Building Partnerships & Coalitions That Foster Change

- Established the Citizens Coalition for Medicaid Reform to serve as an informed constituency advocating Medicaid reform (1981-82)
- Held the Healthy Babies Healthy Mothers Conference shining a light on racial disparities in maternal and child morbidity and mortality (1981-82)
- Sponsored "Health Block Grants: Directions for Citizen Advocacy," a strategy session for citizen participation in deciding the future of Illinois' health programs (1982)
- Convened Task Force to formulate a position on the future of Cook County Hospital (1983)
- Forged the coalition to ban the sale of leaded gas in Illinois (1984)
- Participated on Illinois Department on Public Health's Maternal & Child Health Task Force and helped develop Infant Mortality Reduction Initiative in Illinois (1985)
- Supported the Illinois Hunger Action Coalition (1985)

## Promoting Public Engagement, Education, Activism, & Narrative Change

- Developed and produced WBEZ radio show, Health & Medicine, hosted by Quentin D. Young (1981-83)
- Published quarterly journal, Health & Medicine, which focused on clarifying urgent public health issues and challenges (1981-86)
- Educated communities about environmental causes of illness and worked with City departments to develop environmental protections (1986)
- Convened "Health Care Crisis in Chicago: Impact on the Hispanic Community" conference (1989)

## Advancing Equity & Justice in Health

- Begin to contribute to Illinois, Chicago, and Cook County community health assessments and community health improvement plans, strengthening the plans' focuses on health equity and eliminating structural inequities (1981)
- Established the Health Management Services Center to support community organizations (1985)

- Collaborated with CDPH and Chicago Health Systems Agency to develop a strategic plan to reduce infant mortality, exposing inequities (1985)
- Crafted position papers on Cook County Hospital, defining the need for integrated outpatient facilities, community input, and linkage of already existing services, in addition to a replacement hospital (1986)
- Released comprehensive briefing papers on AIDS examining the dimensions of the issue in Chicago; ethical, policy, and financial considerations, and the philanthropic response (1986)
- Presented analysis of the state of Chicago's Expanding Public Health Care Crisis, calling on the Mayor to address the crisis (1987)
- Produced research indicating a lack of birth options for Illinois families, resulting in our Task Force introducing the first legislation to establish freestanding birth centers (1988)
- Helped promote coverage of hospice care as a benefit under Medicare (1989)

# 1990s

## Rethinking & Reforming Systems of Care

- Established criteria to assess the impact of Humana's purchase of Michael Reese Hospital on Chicago's health system (1991)
- Initiated a proposal for the intergovernmental transfer of funds to capture millions of additional federal Medicaid matching dollars (1991)
- Released primer report on Options for Medicaid reform in Illinois (1991)
- Convened Illinois business leaders to challenge them to address the issue of uninsured residents in Illinois (1995)
- Measured primary care capacity for Cook County, establishing the need for primary and reproductive care (1996)
- Authored and promoted the Bernardin Amendment to the Illinois Constitution which advocated for health care for all Illinois residents (1997)

## Building Partnerships & Coalitions That Foster Change

- Formed and staffed the Illinois Women's Health Coalition, which developed a statewide policy agenda and legislative report card for voting records on women's health, providing advocates with information and tools (1994-95)
- Founded the Illinois Public Health Advocate, bringing the public's voice to public health (1998)
- Supported Quentin D. Young during his presidency of the American Public Health Association (1998)

## Promoting Public Engagement, Education, Activism, & Narrative Change

- Made public the Health Care Summit Policy Steering Committee's statement of principles (1990)
- Established a Speakers Bureau that advocated for a single payer health care system (1991)
- With First Chicago Bank, briefed business leaders on the likely implications of the Clinton health reform agenda (1993)
- Met with the Illinois Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues to influence national health reform debate (1993)
- Provided policy analysis, education, and media strategy on the Governor's Medicaid reform proposal, contributing to the abandonment of the MediPlan Plus program (1996)
- Convened national "Urban Women's Health: Models for the Future" meeting (1996)
- Released report "Improving the Health of Urban Women," developing a blueprint for the Agency for Health Research & Quality (1997)

## Inspiring & Equipping the Health Workforce

- Launched the Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows Program to nurture the next generation of service-minded health care leaders with an inaugural class of 20 Fellows (1996)
- Released report "The Implications of Health Policy on Workforce Development" (1996)

## 1990s Continued

### Advancing Equity & Justice in Health

- Led Birth Center Task Force to successfully pass resolution that would allow alternative health facilities option in Illinois (1990)
- Developed and disseminated a model grievance procedure for Medicaid managed care entities (1996)
- Released report “Implications of Welfare Reform on the Health of the Public” (1996)
- Served on the Mayor’s Task Force on Women’s Health and the Governor’s Commission on Women’s Health (1997)
- Developed legislation requiring a minimum charity care standard for non-profit hospitals in Illinois (1998)
- Continued to contribute to Illinois, Chicago, and Cook County community health assessments and community health improvement plans, strengthening the plans’ focuses on health equity and eliminating structural inequities.

## 2000s

### Rethinking & Reforming Systems of Care

- Launched the Center for Long-Term Care Reform which: educated legislators through a legislative study group approach (2000–01); helped initiate the Older Adults Services Advisory Committee (2005); and secured an additional \$63 million to support home and community-based services (2006)
- Participated on Governor Blagojevich’s Health Transition Team (2002)
- Briefed Illinois legislators on health reform needs of women and issued legislative report care on women’s issues (2003)
- Health & Medicine President Quentin D. Young appointed to the statewide Adequate Health Care Task Force, for which we developed a minority report promoting single payer national health insurance (2005)

- Developed plans for strengthening the regional safety net by hosting Regional Safety Net Summits, bringing together a diverse provider/stakeholder continuum with local officials (2006)
- Led the Coalition to establish the Independent Board for the Cook County Health and Hospitals System and began serving on the nominating committee for the Independent Board until now (2006–present)
- Conducted a preliminary analysis supporting the merger of the city and county public health systems (2008).
- Collaboratively launched the Bridge Model of Transitional Care, a social worker-based model that helps frail elderly safely transition from hospital to home (2008)

### Building Partnerships & Coalitions That Foster Change

- Initiated the Illinois Campaign for Healthy Allocation of the Tobacco Settlement (CHATS) and participated in a statewide coalition that resulted in spending tobacco settlement dollars on improving health (2000)
- Launched a project with the Chicago Public Schools, resulting in the creation of the Office of Coordinated School Health (2002)
- Launched a working group to address the health needs of girls in the juvenile justice system, resulting in a new county office of Girls Programming (2003)
- Served as a key member of the Fair Care Coalition to ensure that non-profit health systems dispense charity care to the uninsured and underinsured (2005–08)
- Formed the Emergency Network to Strengthen Cook County Health Services (2007)

## Promoting Public Engagement, Education, Activism, & Narrative Change

- Convened “Emerging Issues in Correctional Health” conference, forming state and local policy recommendations (2000)
- Issued briefing papers on significant long-term care issues for policymakers (2001)
- Provided annual advocacy training to increase public participation in health reform (2001–09)
- Hosted “Healing Girls in the Juvenile Justice System: The Challenge to Our Community” conference (2003)

## Inspiring & Equipping the Health Workforce

- Expanded the Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows program to include 30 fellows (2001)
- Began an Awards program that recognizes the accomplishments of local activists making a difference (2003)
- Launched the Chicago Area Schweitzer Fellows for Life alumni group (2006)

## Advancing Equity & Justice in Health

- Engaged older adults and individuals with disabilities on long-term care policy and urged state long-term care policy reform (2003)
- Initiated a project examining the health needs of incarcerated and recently released girls (2002) and developed a Girls’ Bill of Health Rights (2004)
- Shepherded passage of an LGBTQ+ policy—one of the few in the country—in the Cook County juvenile justice system through the Court-Involved Youth Project; began training justice system staff on safer custody of LGBTQ+ youth (2002)

- Conducted briefings for community foundations on long-term care issues (2004)
- Provided legislative advocacy training for girls and conducted Springfield advocacy day (2005)
- Conducted critical advocacy to include sexual orientation in the Illinois Human Rights Act, resulting in passage after 30 years (2005)
- Passed Public Act 95-0445, allowing a limited number of freestanding birth centers in Illinois to operate on a pilot basis (2007)
- Continued to contribute to Illinois, Chicago, and Cook County community health assessments and community health improvement plans, strengthening the plans’ focuses on health equity and eliminating structural inequities.

## Rethinking & Reforming Systems of Care

- Developed legislation requiring a minimum charity care standard for all not-for-profit hospitals agreeing to provide free care to ER patients whose incomes are below 200% of the federal poverty line (2011)
- Helped to ensure the successful opening of the first free standing birth center in Illinois (2014)
- Provided strategic guidance and support for the development of the Governor’s Office of Health Innovation and Transformation (2014)
- Established the Center for Public Health Equity, which increased the focus on structural inequities in public policies (2015)

## Building Partnerships & Coalitions That Foster Change

- Served as founding member of the Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative (2011); convened health and policy leaders for the 2015 Midwest Regional Summit on Adverse Child Experiences to advance understanding of the tremendous impact of trauma and toxic stress on the health of individuals and communities (2015)
- Joined as steering committee member of Healthy Illinois Campaign, focused on expanding health insurance to all Illinoisans (2015)
- Launched the Behavioral Health & Primary Care Integration Learning Collaborative to help address the fragmented care and health disparities faced by those with mental illness (2015–18)
- Initiated the country's first Trauma-Informed Hospital Workgroup to train 16+ area health systems on ACEs, trauma, and resilience (2017)
- Joined the Collaborative for Health Equity Cook County, focused on aligning public health with community demands for justice and building power for health equity (2015)
- Became a charter member of Public Health Woke, a coalition focused on safe, welcoming, and affirming health care for immigrants in Cook County and Illinois (2017)
- Joined as steering committee member of Protect Our Care Illinois, focused on defending the ACA and Medicaid and advancing health care access and affordability (2017)
- Became a member organization of the Chicago Housing Justice League, focused on safe, healthy, and accessible and affordable housing for all (2018)

## Promoting Public Engagement, Education, Activism, & Narrative Change

- Launched the Chicago Forum for Justice in Health Policy, convening leaders from communities, health systems, and government to focus on policy approaches to advance health equity (2014)
- Developed a three-part webinar series on ACEs, including Intro to ACEs, Historical Trauma, and Impact of and Prevention of Burnout; presented and trained thousands of individuals and systems to begin the journey to becoming trauma-informed and healing-centered (2019)
- Published numerous system reform-related educational materials, including: "Strengthening the Safety Net After Health Reform: An Examination of the Cook County Safety Net" (2016); "A Qualitative Review of Chicago's West Suburban Safety Net: Consequences, Adaptation, and Recommendations for Future Reform" (2018); "Beyond the Clinic: A National Health Equity Review Implications for our local safety net" (2018); "A Checkup for Cook County's Safety Net: A Qualitative Review of Health Reform" (2019)

## Inspiring & Equipping the Health Workforce

- As part of the national program, became a Chicago Area Health Education Center (AHEC), encouraging students from underrepresented populations to pursue health careers; added AHEC internships to provide community college students with opportunities at area health centers (2013)
- Worked with community and legislative partners to successfully draft and pass HB5412, Illinois' first legislation recognizing Community Health Workers (2014)
- Launched the Quentin D. Young Equity Project, an intersectoral 6-month educational effort of 30 people, aimed to shape the next wave of progressive activists to build on Quentin's legacy (2016)



## 2010s Continued

### Advancing Equity & Justice in Health

- Co-chaired the *root causes* section of Healthy Chicago 2.0 and contributed writing during assessment and plan implementation (2015–20)
- Launched a project mapping health resources and referral networks to better serve recently released court-involved youth and the communities to which they return (2016)
- Provided guidance to CDPH on approaches to measuring structural racism in Chicago (2016)
- Supported community-led efforts to eliminate Cook County gang database (2018–19)
- Continued to contribute to Illinois, Chicago, and Cook County community health assessments and community health improvement plans, strengthening the plans' focuses on health equity and eliminating structural inequities.

## 2020s—Looking forward

- Hosted a “Black Men in White Coats” Chicago Youth Summit to encourage more Black boys to consider careers in medicine (2020)
- Partnered with CDPH and other nonprofits to conduct weekly assessments and apportionments for coordinated PPE distribution for Chicago safety net and community sites during early phase of COVID-19 pandemic (2020)
- Launched the Public Health Workforce Collaborative, a collaborative of public health employers to identify common challenges and policy and program solutions (2020)
- Launched the Intern Equity Program, which provides a paid opportunity for people wishing to begin a career in health policy with a focus on advancing health equity and eliminating and redressing structural inequities (2020)
- Published *Health Equity Requires Defunding and Abolishing the Police* policy statement as guidance for our work for racial justice, health equity, and abolition of police (2020)
- Convened two-part forum series, “Fighting for Our Lives: Public Health Historical Context for COVID-19” and “Fighting for Our Lives: Developing a Public Health Agenda During COVID-19” (2020)
- Joined #StopGeneralIron / #DenyThePermit campaign against environmental racism to deny the permit to polluter being moved to the Southeast Side, organizing letter with 70+ organizations and 500+ health workers (2021)
- Co-organized forum, “#DenyThePermit: Public Health, Democracy, & Environmental Racism” (2021)
- Launched Illinois Aging Together, a campaign for aging equity in Illinois that aims to advance an unprecedented strategic action plan on aging for Illinois (2021)
- Continued to contribute to Illinois, Chicago, and Cook County community health assessments and community health improvement plans, strengthening the plans' focuses on health equity and eliminating structural inequities.







# HEALTH & MEDICINE

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