

**Testimony before the Cook County Health & Hospital System Board
Linda Rae Murray M.D. MPH on behalf of #Public Health Woke Coalition
September 1, 2017**

Good morning,

Today I come before you to thank the many members of this board who have spoken up to attempt to help the CCHHS do the right thing. I especially wish to acknowledge the good work of those board members that made recommendations to management on what needs to be done.

The Public Health Woke coalition wants to thank the overwhelming response to our Thunderclap campaign which garnered over 165 supports who joined their personal and organizational social media accounts to reach about 130,000 people.

It has been seven long months since senior management and the board were made aware of actions taking place in medical systems around the nation to address the intimidation and threats from the new administration in Washington D.C. We expected leadership consistent with the long history and stated mission of this great system. Instead we have seen seven months of stalling, insults, and delay. While health institutions across Chicagoland, from tertiary care hospitals to community health centers, have followed a thoughtful procedure to address this new threat to our patients, County has lagged behind. While institutions in our region have developed training materials and participated in events designed to help the medical community meet the challenge from the federal government and ICE, Senior management has pretended it need do nothing new.

Today, we expect to finally hear about future plans of the County health system to address these concerns. I am here to remind you that our patients deserve high quality care, and that must include actions that protect immigrants and all patients from attacks that threaten the health of the all people of Cook County.

Quality medical care demands safe places where patients do not fear being arrested and deported. Basic public health practice demands communities where trust and public safety are protected. And so, like your recent public relations campaign; we are looking at you now. We expect a full, enthusiastic, thoughtful and high quality response to all of the demands listed below.

**Organizations supporting
Protect Immigrant Health Now!
- campaign of the #PublicHealthWoke Coalition**

- * AIDS Foundation of Chicago
- * Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
- * Centro de Trabajadores Unidos-Immigrant Workers Project
- * Coalición Nacional para Latinxs con Discapacidades
- * Collaborative for Health Equity Cook County
- * Enlace Chicago
- * EverThrive Illinois
- * Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
- * Healthy Illinois Campaign
- * ICAH Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
- * Our Revolution Illinois/Chicago
- * Protect Our Care Illinois
- * Public Health Awakened
- * Radical Public Health
- * Restaurant Opportunities Center Chicago (ROC Chicago)
- * Seventh District Health Task Force of Commissioner Jesus “Chuy” Garcia
- * Southsiders Organized for Unity and Liberation
- * Syrian Community Network
- * University of Illinois School of Public Health Coordinating Center for Public Health Practice

We demand that the Cook County Health System live up to their promise to welcome and protect immigrants and all people, with six specific demands:

- 1. Place abundant and clear signage in multiple languages assuring a welcoming institution.**
- 2. Give staff training and resources addressing needs of marginalized patients and families.**
- 3. Establish referral systems for legal services, know your rights information and other resources needed by immigrant and other marginalized communities.**
- 4. Clarify, revise and strengthen policies and procedures that focus on protecting immigrant and marginalized patients.**
- 5. Identify and monitor indicators and neighborhood stress in immigrant and marginalized communities.**
- 6. Design and implement best practices for clinical and public health providers to deliver appropriate care.**