



Illinois Health and Hospital Association

June 17, 2021

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHAT: **Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA) Inaugural Health Equity Action Day 9 to 11 a.m., Friday, June 18** Will be live streamed at: <https://iha.onlineevent.com/>

IHA's Inaugural Health Equity Action Day—scheduled to coincide with Juneteenth, the official end of slavery in the U.S.—is designed to give healthcare leaders and staff new insights and tools to take their efforts to achieve health equity to the next level. The day will consist of virtual education in the morning and on-your-own activities for healthcare teams to work in the afternoon. IHA will launch the [Racial Equity in Healthcare Progress Report](#) as a long-term accountability tool to document progress toward achieving racial health equity. IHA organized this Action Day as part of the work of the IHA Board of Trustees' Committee on Health Disparities.

Health Equity Action Day speakers include:

- **Keynote speaker Michelle Silverthorn**, founder of Inclusion Nation;
- **Brenda Battle**, Senior Vice President, Community Health Transformation and Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer, The University of Chicago Medicine;
- **Governor J.B. Pritzker**;
- **Emanuel "Chris" Welch**, Speaker of the Illinois House;
- **Dr. Ngozi Ezike**, Director of the Illinois Department of Public Health;
- **Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot** and **Dr. Allison Arwady**, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health; and
- **U.S. Senator Richard J. Durbin**.

A panel discussion moderated by **Gabrielle Cummings**, President, NorthShore University HealthSystem, Highland Park Hospital, will include the following panelists:

- **Diahann Sinclair**, Vice President and Head of Diversity, Organization & Community Development, St. Bernard Hospital and Health Care Center, Chicago
- **Carlos Nelson**, CEO, Greater Auburn Gresham Development Corporation, Chicago;
- **Carmen Vergara**, COO, Esperanza Health Centers, Chicago; and
- **Dr. Allison Arwady**, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health.

In support of the event, Gov. Pritzker issued a **proclamation** declaring June 18 as the Illinois Health and Hospital Association's Health Equity Action Day.

WHEN: Friday, June 18, 2021, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.

WHERE: *Livestream*. To access the event, go to: <https://iha.onlineevent.com/>

WHO: Hospital Board members, healthcare leadership teams, physicians and other frontline healthcare professionals, and local, state and federal officials

LINK: [Program brochure](#)

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