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Cook County Health CEO Dr. Erik Mikaitis Elected to the Illinois Health and Hospital Association Board

NAPERVILLE – Dr. Erik Mikaitis, Chief Executive Officer, Cook County Health (CCH), has been elected to the Board of Trustees for the Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA). The IHA Board is the policymaking body for the Association, which represents more than 200 hospitals and nearly 40 health systems across Illinois. Mikaitis' three-year term began on Jan. 1, 2026. The first IHA board meeting of the year is scheduled for Jan. 23.

"We are pleased to welcome Dr. Mikaitis to the IHA Board," said A.J. Wilhelmi, IHA President and CEO. "His leadership in quality, patient safety, and system improvement will be a valuable asset to our work advancing healthcare policy in Illinois."

"I'm honored to join the IHA Board of Trustees at such a critical moment for health care," said Dr. Mikaitis. "As federal funding cuts threaten the stability of hospitals and the communities they serve, IHA's strong advocacy, coalition building, and unified voice are more essential than ever. I look forward to working with my colleagues to protect access to care, strengthen our health care workforce, and ensure Illinois hospitals can continue to meet the needs of patients across the state."

Dr. Mikaitis was appointed as Chief Executive Officer in October 2024, after serving in the Interim CEO role since November 2023.

Since joining Cook County Health as Chief Quality Officer in 2022, Dr. Mikaitis has served as a champion of quality and compliance, implementing evidence-based processes to improve the delivery of care across the system. He implemented numerous quality initiatives across CCH, including a new multifaceted strategy deployment system that resulted in significant improvements in patient outcomes. Dr. Mikaitis enhanced the system's quality and safety dashboard and deployed a regulatory readiness program.

Dr. Mikaitis previously served as Vice President and Chief Medical Officer for Franciscan Health Crown Point, where, among other duties, he led the development of safety protocols and processes during the COVID-19 pandemic and developed a new dashboard for communicating quality improvements to the board. Dr. Mikaitis also served as Medical Director of the Franciscan Health Accountable Care Organization in the northern Indiana and south suburban Chicago regions.

A board-certified Internal Medicine Physician, Dr. Mikaitis earned a Bachelor of Science from the University of Illinois at Chicago, a Master of Business Administration from DePaul University, and a medical degree from Ross University.

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About Cook County Health

One of the largest public health systems in the nation, [Cook County Health \(CCH\)](#) serves as the safety net for health care in Chicago and suburban Cook County. CCH is comprised of John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital and Provident Hospital, a robust network of more than a dozen community health centers, the Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center, Cermak Health Services – which provides health care to individuals at the Cook County Jail and the Juvenile Temporary Detention Center – the Cook County Department of Public Health and CountyCare, a Medicaid managed care health plan. Through the health system and the health plan, CCH cares for more than 600,000 individuals each year. While Cook County Health has evolved over the past 180 years, our mission remains the same: ensuring that all may live their healthiest life.

About IHA

The Illinois Health and Hospital Association, with offices in Chicago, Naperville, Springfield, and Washington, D.C., advocates for Illinois' more than 200 hospitals and nearly 40 health systems as they serve their patients and communities. IHA members provide a broad range of services—not just within their walls, but across the continuum of healthcare and in their communities. Reflecting the diversity of the state, IHA members consist of nonprofit, investor-owned and public hospitals in the following categories: community, safety net, rural, critical access, specialty, and teaching hospitals, including academic medical centers. For more information, see www.team-ih.org. Like IHA on [Facebook](#). Follow IHA on [X](#) (formally known as Twitter).

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