



COOK COUNTY HEALTH

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March 15, 2022

National Academy of Medicine
500 5th Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

RE: Cook County Health Care: Network Organization Statement

Dear National Academy of Medicine:

Cook County Health (CCH) has a 180-year history of caring for the region’s most vulnerable populations experiencing poverty and other health-related social needs. CCH is very interested in joining the Network Organizations. We are committed to supporting the priority areas of the Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector (Climate Collaborative) and working together to galvanize a movement to address climate change and protect human health, well-being, and equity.

CCH is dedicated to combating climate change through the four identified pillars: health care delivery, health care supply chain and infrastructure, health professional education and communication, and policy, financing, and metrics. We are working to identify a strategic plan that has begun with an ASHRAE Level 1 assessment to prioritize and execute a strategy to reduce our energy consumption. CCH recognizes this is a long-term commitment and is prepared to continue this process to drive systemic change based on best practices to reduce our consumption.

CCH plans to research and create a policy to covert to energy efficient medical equipment where possible. To address our supply chain and infrastructure, we are committed to identifying appropriate process improvements to limit single-use items and excess packaging as well as identifying reusable medical supplies. CCH will also commit to identify strategies to improve recycling and reusing efforts. CCH is committed to expanding employee education and communication around ways to be more sustainable. Potential tactics include creating an internal

taskforce of stakeholders; developing a monthly employee e-newsletter; and participating in continuing education opportunities.

To address policy, financing, and metrics, CCH will work with agency leaders in identifying gold-star metrics and develop a strategic plan to achieve them. In addition, CCH is part of the Cook County Government, we are in a position to influence policy and advocate for environmental and sustainable efforts Countywide. We commit to working with regional leaders on adapting policies that support eco-friendly models.

CCH has taken steps to become more environmentally conscience. In 2018, CCH built a new professional building on its main campus with a sustainable design and several sustainable strategies to achieve its expected LEED Gold certification. High-performance triple-pane insulated and fritted glazing encloses patient rooms and workplaces outfitted with automated solar controls and vacancy sensors to ensure the LED-based lighting system is only employed when necessary. The building's all-glass facade ensures that daylight penetrates into the interior, further reducing the need for artificial lighting. Responsibly sourced, and sustainably focused materials were chosen throughout, like the bio-based resilient flooring that covers more than 200,000 square-feet of floor area.

CCH is excited to be a partner in the Action Collaborative on Decarbonizing the U.S. Health Sector (Climate Collaborative). Through this partnership, CCH commits to reducing our carbon footprint and implementing sustainable solutions to reduce excess waste.

Sincerely,


Israel Rocha
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Shannon E. Andrews, CCH, Chief Equity & Inclusion Officer