

## Overview of our November 16, 2021 Town Hall

The newly incorporated South Side Healthy Community Organization was delighted to update our community friends and neighbors earlier this month on the work we have been doing since the great news that our collaborative was one of eight chosen to receive significant state funding for health transformation.

Our virtual community town hall session November 16th had 182 participants! Thank you to those who attended.

We wanted to share some highlights from the session and answer the questions we didn't get to during our town hall. If you'd like to see a full recording of the town hall, please go to our website – [www.southsidehealthycommunity.com](http://www.southsidehealthycommunity.com).

During the hour-long session, we started with a refresher around what we heard from all of you as we were developing our model to transform health on Chicago's South Side, including having:

- More physicians, especially those who reflect our community
- A focus on social determinants of health like jobs, transportation, housing and nutritious food
- More health educational resources
- More connections among clinics and hospitals for better care coordination
- More access to specialists

The goal of our model for building healthy communities is to address those important issues. In the first year alone, we plan to hire:

- 15 new primary care doctors
- 7 specialists to manage chronic or more complicated conditions
- 80 care coordinators and Community Health Workers

In addition, we will begin the process for developing technology that connects all in the collaborative members to each other and to our patients in enhanced ways.

Kimberly McCullough-Starks from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services joined our session and talked about why health transformation is important across the state and why our project was chosen to go forward.

We also shared our board of directors – and you can see them all listed on our website. We have 17 board members, representing the federally qualified health centers, hospitals and health systems in our collaborative, our yet-to-be-hired CEO, and three community leaders of the South Side.

We know community engagement and involvement in these efforts is important every step of the way. We are committed to partnering with vendors from the South Side, especially MBE/WBE and BEP certified companies. All in, the HCO is targeting to hire approximately 400 staff, and we have committed to at least 33% of those new hires being residents of the South Side service area.

And we are forming a Community Advisory Council who will meet regularly with our CEO and Board to provide input and feedback. We hope to work with our yet-to-be-named CEO on a process guided by community input to start selecting candidates for that Council by next spring.

We were happy to see so many community members engaging and asking questions during our town hall session. We answered a number of them during the session and attached are answers to those we couldn't get to in our hour together.

Finally, we conducted an online poll during the town hall, asking people how they want to stay informed and engaged. The community ranked town hall sessions like the one we conducted as the best was to stay informed, followed by email updates and our website. We are hoping to host additional town hall sessions once a quarter over the next year. In the meantime, please like and share our Facebook page, and look to our website as well for the latest information. The Community Feedback section of our website remains live, so you can continue sharing your ideas or questions there.

Thank you for your continued support of and interest in health transformation on Chicago's South Side. We are enormously excited for the future.