

The **South Side Healthy Community Organization** hosted its third town hall meeting on Wednesday, June 22 where a number of updates were shared and which served as an introduction to our new CEO, Kimberly Hobson! Thank you to the 160 community leaders, faith leaders, health professionals, elected officials and South Side residents who attended and participated in the program. To watch the whole town hall, please go to our website – www.southsidehealthycommunity.com – under the "Community Engagement" section.

Below are some highlights from the session:

The meeting began with greetings and opening remarks from **Rashard Johnson, SSHCO Board of Directors Chairman and CEO, Advocate Trinity and Advocate South Suburban Hospitals.**

He was followed by **Margie Johnson, SSHCO Board Member and CEO/Executive Director, Beloved Community Family Wellness Center.** She shared that ten new primary care providers – doctors and nurses -- will be hired in the fall and will start seeing patients at three federally qualified health center partners in the SSHCO. That’s just the beginning. The SSHCO intends to hire up to 90 primary care providers over five years. The SSHCO is also focused on improving the health and outcomes for pregnant women and those struggling with mental health, so we are adding health care providers who specialize in those areas this fall as well. She was excited to note that community health workers and nurse care coordinators have been hired already and are going through training – and these new positions will help the community better access the resources available to improve their health. This too is just a start -- there are more waves of hiring for those important jobs coming in late August and November.

These new workers will be equipped with access to UniteUs technology that will make community-based support services – like transportation, housing options and nutritious food sources – easy to share with patients and the community.

Christa Hamilton, SSHCO Board Member and CEO UCAN Chicago (Ulrich Children’s Advantage Network), then introduced **Kimberly Hobson, the new CEO of the SSHCO.** Hobson and Hamilton dialogued about Hobson’s vision for leading SSHCO and building health equity on the South Side of Chicago. Hobson shared her deep roots in the South Side and her experience and passion for the work. She sees the SSHCO as a true catalyst for change and stated: “There is power in these organizations and the community coming together -- community-based organizations, faith organizations, South Side residents, hospitals and clinics, legislators, health systems; and then the state providing generous resources. This collaboration gives us the best opportunity to succeed in a comprehensive and sustainable way. We have all the ingredients to really make a difference.”

She shared that she plans to keep community engagement at the center of all we do and that she wants to help the 13 health care organizations who have come together stay focused on our common goal of better health for our community. You can see her full interview by watching the town hall video on our website, referenced earlier.

Then **Diahann Sinclair, Secretary of the SSHCO Board and VP of Organizational and Community Development for St. Bernard Hospital**, shared questions coming in from our community-based audience. [Click here to read the Q&A.](#)

Thank you for your continued support of and interest in health transformation on Chicago's South Side. Please continue to visit our social media channels and check in regularly on our website. We are enormously excited about our healthy future together.