



The inaugural SSHCO Community Empowerment Health Fair, held on Saturday, June 22, at the Kroc Center was a resounding success, designed to deepen community engagement, raise awareness about SSHCO services, and create a fun gathering for families.

The idea for the Health Fair emerged from a brainstorming session by our volunteer Community Advisory Council, which then organized into committees to pull everything together for the community. The event featured an outstanding opening panel on mental health, with speakers Dr. Olusimbo Ige (Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health), Dr. Burnetta Herron (chair for the SSHCO CAC), and Nita Marchant (Behavioral Health Specialist at Beloved Community Family Wellness Center, moderated by our CEO Kimberly Hobson. The engaging discussion drew a full audience, eager to participate with questions and personal testimonies.



The fair attracted over 75 attendees who visited 11 resource tables offering information and giveaways from SSHCO provider partners and community organizations. Health screenings for blood pressure and diabetes were also available.

Families enjoyed sessions of Yoga and Zumba, face-painting, and maternal health baby kits, including free diapers and wipes. Notably, 50 attendees identified as uninsured or Medicaid recipients, and we are actively following up with them to connect them to services that may help them lead healthier lives. The SSHCO hiring team was also present to recruit for care coordination roles.

