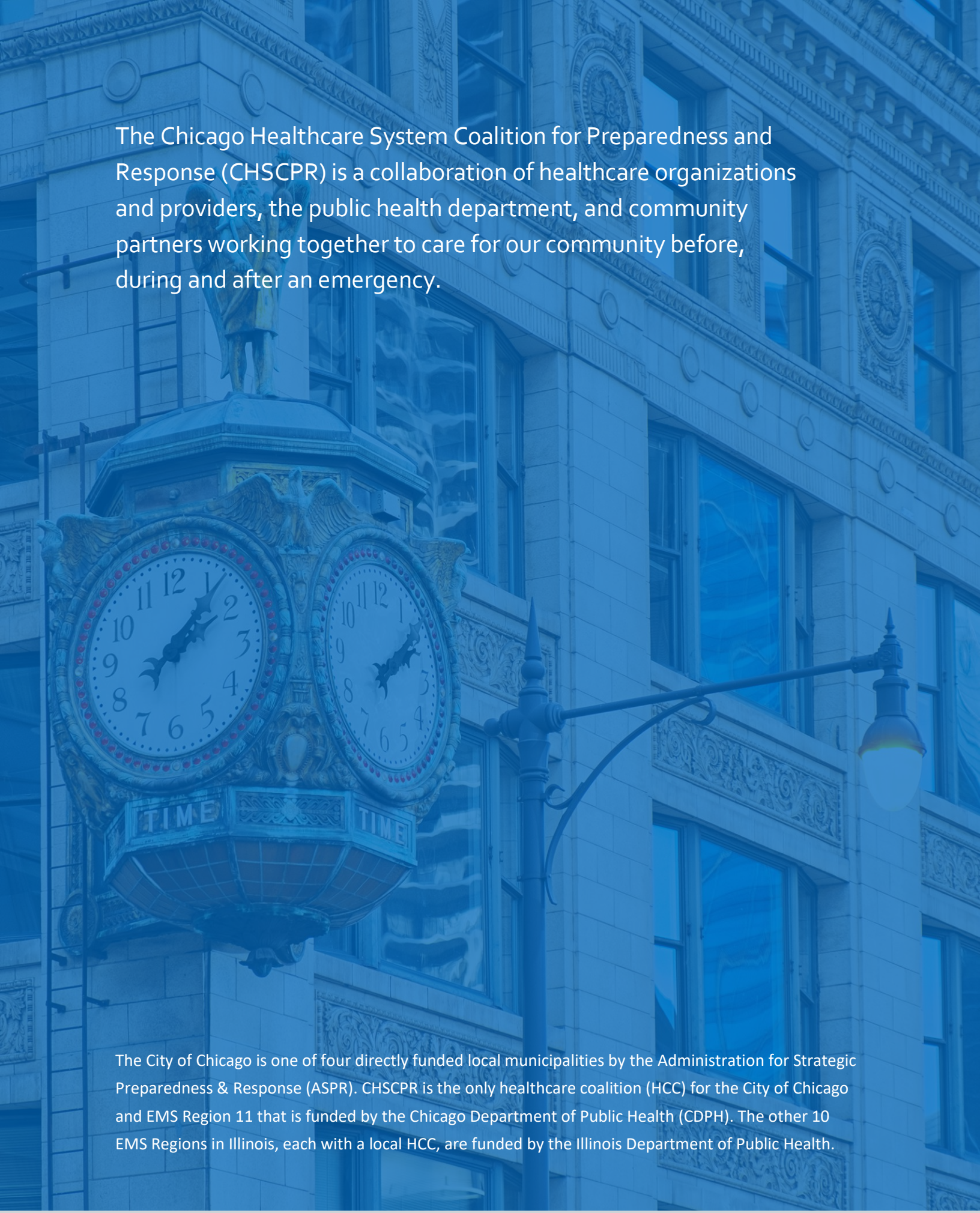
Accomplishments

JULY 2024 – JUNE 2025



The Chicago Healthcare System Coalition for Preparedness and Response (CHSCPR) is a collaboration of healthcare organizations and providers, the public health department, and community partners working together to care for our community before, during and after an emergency.

The City of Chicago is one of four directly funded local municipalities by the Administration for Strategic Preparedness & Response (ASPR). CHSCPR is the only healthcare coalition (HCC) for the City of Chicago and EMS Region 11 that is funded by the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH). The other 10 EMS Regions in Illinois, each with a local HCC, are funded by the Illinois Department of Public Health.

LEADERSHIP & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Public Health Chair
Chicago Department of Public Health

Healthcare Chair
Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

Healthcare Vice Chair
Endeavor Health Swedish Hospital

Healthcare Past Chair
Loretto Hospital

Regional Hospital Coordinating Center (RHCC)
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

At-Large Members
Erie Family Health Centers

Prime Healthcare Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital

UChicago Medicine

Emergency Medical Services
Chicago Fire Department

Clinical Advisor
UChicago Medicine

Readiness Response Coordinator
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

Emergency Management
Office of Emergency Management and Communications

Fiduciary Agent and Program Support
Illinois Health and Hospital Association

CHAIRS

Information Sharing
Sinai Chicago

Medical Surge
Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

Responder Safety and Health
UChicago Medicine

Training and Exercise
Advocate Trinity Hospital

CONTENTS

MEMBERSHIP

Member organizations include but are not limited to the following Chicago healthcare and supporting organizations: acute care, specialty, and long-term acute care hospitals; public health; emergency medical services; emergency management agencies; long-term care facilities; dialysis centers; Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs); hospice; ambulatory surgery centers; mental health centers; organ procurement organizations; and home health agencies.

34

Hospitals*

14

Long Term Care Facilities*

66

Dialysis Centers*

33

Other Stakeholders*

** Active organizations per category*

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM PREPAREDNESS—PARTICIPATION

96

Meetings

8

Trainings

13

Drills/Exercises

HOSPITALS

Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

Advocate Trinity Hospital

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

Ascension Saint Joseph - Chicago

Community First Medical Center

Endeavor Health Swedish Hospital

Holy Cross Hospital

Humboldt Park Health

Insight Hospital & Medical Center

Jackson Park Hospital & Medical Center

Jesse Brown VA Medical Center

John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County

Kindred Chicago – North

La Rabida Children's Hospital

Loretto Hospital

Montrose Behavioral Health Hospital

Mount Sinai Hospital

Northwestern Memorial Hospital

Prime Healthcare Resurrection Medical Center

Prime Healthcare Saint Mary of Nazareth Hospital

Provident Hospital of Cook County

RML Specialty Hospital - Chicago

Roseland Community Hospital

Rush University Medical Center

Saint Anthony Hospital

Shirley Ryan AbilityLab

Shriners Children's Chicago

South Shore Hospital

St. Bernard Hospital and Health Care Center

Thorek Memorial Hospital

Thorek Memorial Hospital - Andersonville

UChicago Medicine

UI Health

Weiss Memorial Hospital

PARTICIPATING HEALTHCARE PARTNERS

ACCESS Community Health Network

AHS Family Health Center

Alden Estates of Northmoor Rehabilitation & Health Care Center

Alden Lakeland Rehabilitation & Health Care Center

Alden Lincoln Rehabilitation & Health Care Center

Alden Village North

Alivio Medical Center

Aperion Care International

Best Home Healthcare Network

Birchwood Plaza Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

California Terrace Health Care

Central Healthcare, Inc.

Comfort Care Home Health Care

Cook County Cermak Health Services

DaVita (25 facilities)

Dialysis Care Center (DCC) – Beverly

Erie Family Health Centers

Esperanza Health Centers

Excel Renal Care Services LLC

Fresenius Kidney Care (31 facilities)

Hamdard Health Alliance

Home Dialysis Services Beverly – Renal Care Providers

Howard Brown Health

iCare Home Health

Kidney Care at Home, LLC

Lakeview Rehabilitation and Nursing Center

MADO Healthcare (3 locations)

Medical District Home Dialysis

Mercy Circle

Misericordia

Nephron Dialysis Center Ltd

Park View Rehab Center

Pavilion of Logan Square

Pavilion of South Shore

Princeton Rehabilitation & Health Care Center

SAH Dialysis Center at 26th Street

Saint Thomas Home Healthcare, Inc.

Sanderling Renal Services

Shifa Dialysis LLC

Smith Village

St. Mary of Providence: Rose-Angela Hall

Symphony of Chicago West

Tapestry 360 Health

The Admiral at the Lake

The Clare

The Pearl of Montclare

The Selfhelp Home, Inc.

The Surgery Center at 900 North Michigan Ave

The Waterford Care Center

Thorek Retirement Home

Trilogy Behavioral Health

U.S. Renal Care

Unity Hospice of Chicagoland

Visiting Nurses of Illinois, Inc.

Warren Park Health and Living Center

Wentworth Rehabilitation and Health Care Center

Westwood Village Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Willow Branch Hospice

TRAINING

Identifying and assessing the preparedness to respond to an emergency by developing the necessary knowledge, skills, and abilities of HCC member's workforce.

The HCC is committed to providing ongoing training that helps hospitals and healthcare partners keep their staff prepared and confident, so they can continue delivering safe, reliable care during any emergency. Several webinars were offered, including a session on Category A Bioterrorism Agents/Diseases tailored for frontline healthcare providers.

Three one-day, on-site first receivers' decontamination trainings were held for hospitals with decontamination teams. The training covered key areas such as hazard identification, an overview of the Incident Command System and decontamination procedures, practical application of skills using PPE and decontamination equipment, equipment setup, and the execution of an emergency decontamination operation. Each training day concluded with a full-scale drill, featuring volunteers acting as patients in need of decontamination—enabling hospitals to rehearse the complete response process from start to finish.

A ready-to-use tabletop exercise was developed for both CHEMPACK-storing and non-storing acute care hospitals. The exercise includes guidance on CHEMPACK activation and apportionment, as well as training videos tailored for emergency preparedness staff, emergency department personnel, non-storing hospitals, storing hospitals, and pharmacists. The exercise is readily available on the HCC's website (www.chscpr.org)

EXERCISE

Conducting coordinated exercises that highlight applicable regulatory and compliance issues that assess the HCC's readiness by identifying resource needs and gaps before, during, and after an emergency.

HCC members conducted a functional exercise that simulated a large-scale mass casualty incident resulting from multiple tornadoes and concurrent utility disruptions, with patient surge equal to 10% of all medical-surgical beds across participating facilities. More than 600 documented participants from 58 CHSCPR member and partner organizations took part in the exercise.

Strengths demonstrated during the exercise included hospitals identifying a volume of patients for decompression/rapid discharge; contingency strategies aimed at maximizing available resources, reallocating staff, and offering accommodations to retain personnel on-site. Non-hospital partners successfully adjusted patient care plans, initiated telehealth or phone wellness checks, and altered staff assignments to maintain essential services.

Areas for improvement include family reunification efforts. Hospitals should consider assigning trained liaisons, such as social workers or chaplains, to serve as primary points of contact with families at reunification sites. Non-hospital partners should continue to engage in planning and regularly exercising evacuation triggers, prioritization protocols, and transportation logistics.

INFORMATION SHARING

The coordination and ability to conduct multijurisdictional, multidisciplinary exchange of public health and medical-related information and situational awareness between the healthcare system and partners.

Information sharing is a primary function of the HCC. As new and persistent threats target healthcare organizations throughout the region, fortifying all means of communication continues to be a priority.

STARCOM21 Radios

- A total of 12 announced STARCOM21 radio drills were conducted in 2024-2025 (BP1), with a high-achieving **average response rate of 87%** among HCC radio partners.
- **Unannounced STARCOM21 radio drills** debuted in 2025, intended to further prepare hospitals and healthcare organizations for emergency incidents.
- Investments in **Universal Power Supply units, back-up batteries, and battery charger adapters** were made for STARCOM21 radios in the region, as informed by HCC members.

CHSCPR.org

- More than **280 news and spotlight posts, 140 calendar events, and 65 library resources** were added to the HCC website.
- A dedicated **2024 Democratic National Convention Resources webpage** was created, with over 30 helpful preparedness documents for HCC members.
- Several **improvements to HCC website navigation** were made, along with the ICS 205 form in EMResource, following ease-of-use suggestions from HCC members.

Digital Communication Highlights

Over **300 emails** were sent from *chscpr@team-iha.org* to HCC members and stakeholders. These emails provided situational awareness for planned and unplanned events; relayed CHSCPR inquiries, resources, and opportunities for involvement; and shared guidance and tools from ASPR, CDPH, CCDPH, IDPH, and other partners.

The HCC's distribution list is comprised of over **380 unique contacts** representing **135+ hospital and healthcare organizations**.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS COORDINATION

Developing processes for notification and information exchange of healthcare delivery between relevant response partners, stakeholders, and healthcare organizations to determine immediate resource needs.

CHSCPR led a strategic planning effort to define the priorities and goals of the HCC for the next five years. The Strategic Plan was developed through extensive input from HCC members and community stakeholders across disciplines over several months. This collaborative process ensured that the plan reflects the priorities of those serving Chicago's diverse communities, particularly those most affected by disasters. HCC members also validated the objectives and strategies to ensure alignment with the region's healthcare needs and emergency response priorities. The CHSCPR Strategic Plan will serve as a roadmap for HCC's activities and projects in the coming years, helping to ensure that we effectively meet the needs of the community.

The RISC 2.0 Toolkit is a web-based hazard vulnerability assessment (HVA) tool that was created by the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response (ASPR) and aligns with CHSCPR efforts for a unified preparedness approach. Broad partner participation in this HVA offers objective data to help identify preparedness gaps and gives HCC partners valuable opportunities to address those gaps and strengthen their emergency preparedness plans.

CHSCPR supported HCC members in completing the RISC 2.0 Assessment by developing a phased approach to HVA completion. A live demonstration of the RISC 2.0 tool was presented to the HCC, encouraging all members to input relevant data to enhance regional planning and preparedness efforts that reflect the diversity of hospitals and healthcare partners across Chicago. Follow-up office hour

sessions, including one specifically for dialysis providers, were held to answer questions and provide support in completing the assessment.

Currently, 29 organizations are linked to CHSCPR in the RISC 2.0 Toolkit's HVA, including hospitals, LCTF, and dialysis facilities. RISC 2.0 engagement will continue to be a focus of the HCC in the coming year, and its results will support training, exercise, and resource offerings.

To enhance engagement in the HCC, a Welcome Video is being developed. The goal of the Welcome Video is to promote the work of the HCC to new members and to encourage participation in Coalition committees and activities. The video will also include testimonials from members of the Executive Committee on how the HCC has helped them enhance preparedness at their facilities, and what their involvement means to them. The video will be completed in Budget Period 2.

MEDICAL SURGE

Providing adequate medical evaluation and care planning during incidents that exceed the limits of the normal medical infrastructure within the community.

HCC members routinely participate in planning and preparedness for medical surge events, strengthening the region's ability to respond to this type of emergency effectively and efficiently.

Situational awareness on the **respiratory surge season, measles, and H5N1** was routinely shared throughout the region, as were preparations for the ongoing special events season in Chicago.

HCC members contributed to the development of a new **Mini Drill Template for a medical surge event**. The template allows for quick, efficient, and meaningful drills to be conducted on-site, particularly with frontline staff and their important roles in the initial operational period of an event.

CDPH's updated **Concept of Operations (ConOps) for Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers** document was extensively reviewed and then approved by members of the HCC. Following improvements and updates to the **Medical Surge Annex** (notably, the incorporation of key components from the ConOps for COVID-19 document, burn and pediatric information, and an appendix with data from recent Medical Response Surge Exercises (MRSEs)), HCC members also reviewed and approved the Annex.

RESPONDER SAFETY & HEALTH

Supporting healthcare organizations in planning, equipping, and training responders to effectively manage high-acuity public health emergencies – while promoting physical safety, fostering mental well-being, and strengthening long-term resilience.

Responder safety is the foundation of effective emergency response. By protecting responders, we also protect patients, staff, and the community. To support this priority, a seminar was held for hospitals on the CDPH medical countermeasures program to review triggers and deployment of assets to HCC membership. Medical countermeasure kits are designed for rapid deployment to first responders, healthcare personnel, and key city infrastructure personnel in the event of a biological incident involving release of a Category A agent. The event was attended by 60 stakeholders.

Active HCC hospitals and healthcare partners were given the opportunity to obtain disaster cache supplies at no cost. These supplies were intended to support evacuation and alternate care sites, respond to extreme weather or utility outages, and assist with decontamination efforts.

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

Led by the U.S. Secret Service, CHSCPR coordinated the dissemination of regional information regarding this National Special Security Event (NSSE), ensuring the readiness of the healthcare system.

In August of 2024, the City of Chicago hosted the 2024 Democratic National Convention. Led by the U.S. Secret Service, CHSCPR coordinated the dissemination of regional information regarding this National Special Security Event (NSSE), ensuring the readiness of the healthcare system. In preparation for the event, seven situational awareness calls were hosted by CDPH and CHSCPR for healthcare system partners both prior to and during the DNC to provide them with information related to healthcare impacts and readiness suggestions. In preparation for the DNC, CHSCPR conducted an exercise series with chemical and radiation scenarios to test the CHSCPR Chemical and Radiation Annex. This series consisted of a workshop, tabletop, and a full-scale exercise. Additional resources were also disseminated to the Coalition to enhance readiness including a Special Event Checklist, VIP Patient Checklist, and Safety Data Sheets for riot agents.

During the event, coordination between the HCC and city agencies occurred through the 24-hour Public Health Emergency Operations Center (PHEOC). The CDPH PHEOC held daily situational awareness calls for Coalition partners. These calls allowed city agencies to provide updates and provide an opportunity for healthcare partners to raise questions or concerns. Additionally, state and federal partners had representatives present at the PHEOC to assist in coordination and information sharing. Hospitals were also asked to participate in citywide patient tracking efforts, as well as report bed availability at their facilities twice daily. Forty-two patients were tracked during the event. Finally, hospitals were given access to a Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) chatroom where they could receive real time public safety updates throughout the event's duration.

PRESENTATIONS

Stakeholders delivered multiple presentations at healthcare conferences this year.

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Preparedness Summit
April 29-May 2, 2025 San Antonio, Texas

- *Behind the Scenes of Healthcare Preparedness for the Democratic National Convention: Lessons for Any Large-Scale Event* (CDPH, RHCC, and Readiness Response Coordinator – Oral Presentation)

  The 2024 Democratic National Convention (DNC) was a National Special Security Event (NSSE), requiring extensive healthcare preparedness and coordination. NSSEs are unique, but the lessons learned, and strategies developed during this preparation are applicable to any region facing large-scale public events. This presentation provides a behind-the-scenes look at how healthcare systems can plan for high-profile events, offering valuable insights that healthcare emergency preparedness leaders can apply in their own settings, regardless of scale. As part of the Health and Medical Subcommittee of the DNC Planning Committee, leaders of key healthcare organizations and the US Secret Service developed a comprehensive emergency response strategy. Resources developed and challenges faced were discussed.

- *One Size Fits None: Flexible Tools for Disaster Preparedness* (CDPH, RHCC, and Readiness Response Coordinator – Oral Presentation)

  Bite-size and templated resources are often the easiest to use and most often used, especially by Emergency Preparedness leaders who often serve many roles at an organization. Here multiple small, templated drills and resources are highlighted and shown how they've been implemented in Chicago during varying special events.

- *Chicago MRC Volunteers: Mobilizing a Swift and Diverse Response to the 2024 Measles Outbreak at New Arrival Shelters* (CDPH – Poster Presentation)

  To mitigate the spread of Measles in a New Arrival Shelter, CDPH activated and deployed interdisciplinary resources including the Chicago Medical Reserve Corps. MRC volunteers have a wide breadth of skills, certifications, and abilities that can enhance public health's response to a disease outbreak. In the City of Chicago, the Measles Response provides just one example of the versatility and flexibility of MRC Volunteers within an outbreak response to perform supportive and clinical roles, such as vaccine education and administration, language interpretation, administrative task support, and enhancing screening/testing capabilities. Utilizing Chicago MRC Volunteers in a real-world outbreak highlighted the importance of maintaining a ready, robust, and flexible volunteer base, and stressed additional areas of improvement when deploying and utilizing MRC volunteers. Examples include recruitment and retention of a wide range of skills, languages, and abilities, communication effectiveness, deployment procedure standardization, and effective storage of volunteer vaccination and medical documentation.

PRESENTATIONS CONTINUED

Hale Borealis Forum

May 20-22, 2025 Anchorage, Alaska

- *Mini Drills, Big Thrills: Small Steps to Disaster Preparedness* Success (RHCC and Readiness Response Coordinator – Oral Presentation)

- *Increasing Patient Tracking Compliance by Harnessing Clinician* Engagement (Readiness Response Coordinator – Oral Presentation)

  Effective patient tracking has a significant positive impact during emergency response to events with the capacity to strain the hospital and healthcare system. Bolstering hospital readiness through site visits and first receiver clinician education during special event planning improved effective use of a citywide patient tracking system during planned events.

Illinois Department of Public Health Preparedness Summit

May 6-8, 2025 Bloomington, Illinois

- *That Tracks: EMTrack in Action* (CDPH, RHCC, and Readiness Response Coordinator – Oral Presentation)

  Large and small planned events are a great way to trial and test patient tracking tools. In Chicago, the process and use of EMTrack began at large, planned events. Frequent reminders and easy just-in-time training resources are deployed to frontline providers to ensure ease and adherence to system use. A breakout demonstration was part of this session.

The Chicago Healthcare System Coalition for Preparedness and Response, including the development of this document, is funded by the Health and Human Services ASPR Hospital Preparedness Program, awarded to the Chicago Department of Public Health.

www.chscpr.org