



## Letter from the Interim Executive Director

Greetings!,

Chicago children will be returning to classrooms virtually this fall for the foreseeable future, the new normal in education. As a former Chicago Public School teacher, I applaud all parties involved in navigating through these tough times, especially the students who will have to sit through some variation of up to 4 hours of daily video instruction. These circumstances continue to remind us of the vast inequities that exist in our city as we witness the added challenges of remote learning for communities already lacking resources. Whether it be figuring out how to provide meals to students who live in food insecure homes, to the stark digital divide that exists throughout the city, to child care for parents who may themselves be first responders -- I can only imagine how daunting all of this must feel to a parent or student with so many things already on their shoulders. Unfortunately, many of us fear that COVID-19 will create an even further widening of socioeconomic achievement gaps across the city. We must continue to work collectively to ensure that the city pays attention to the needs of communities already lacking needed resources, and that as we forge a new normal beyond COVID-19 that special care is taken to ensure that there is greater equity in educational resources.

Sincerely,

Dion McGill  
Communications and Community Outreach Manager  
Strengthening Chicago's Youth  
Injury Prevention and Research Center  
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

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## **FEATURED ARTICLE: SEPTEMBER 2020 VIRTUAL RACE AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE**

### **SCY Team Invitation**

As you may already know, [Strides for Peace](#) is an organization with the mission to increase the collective impact of community organizations working to end gun violence, save lives and build a stronger Chicago. Strides for Peace help their community partners and affiliates by raising money for them to help increase the scale of their positive impact. Every dollar raised by our organization for the Virtual

Race comes back to our organization. You have several options for the race this year:

- 8K
- 5K
- 2 Mile Walk
- Tots for Peace Sprint (ages 2-10)
- Virtual Fundraising

You can visit the Strides for Peace website for more detail and generally register for the race [here](#). When registering, be sure to sign up for Team Strengthening Chicago's Youth. All registrations come with an enhanced race packet, race shirt, socks and medal. Participants are encouraged to run anytime, anywhere, the week of September 19-26. Also be sure to register by 9/7 to get your race packet in time for race week. If you register after 9/7, you will still get a race packet, it simply is not guaranteed delivery before the 9/19. Finally, there will be a live-stream celebration on Saturday, September 26 complete with a DJ and live performances.

Prior to September, we also encourage you to follow Strides for Peace on social media (Facebook/Instagram/LinkedIn/Twitter) to engage with them and the many affiliates and partners using the hashtags #ChooseHope, #WhyIRun and #RAGV2020. There are also training challenges being done by various individuals and organizations, so be on the lookout for those too. Please pass on this information to friends, family and colleagues. The more, the merrier!



[REGISTER](#)

[SCY'S WEBSITE](#)

[FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES](#)

[JOB POSTINGS](#)

[SCY'S BLOG](#)

[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

## **EXAMINING THE IMPACT COVID-19 STRESSORS ON CAREGIVER MENTAL HEALTH**

A Deeper Look at How the Nation has Shifted Services and How that has Affected Caregivers

The [National Council for Behavioral Health](#) Interest Group Initiative invites you to join the conversation by participating in a national forum around caregiver mental health. This event will take a deeper look at the national landscape of COVID-19 impact on caregivers as well as share strategies on mindfulness and self-care for providers and their teams to consider.

Thursday, August 20, 2020  
12:00 pm  
Online

**NATIONAL COUNCIL**  
FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

[LEARN MORE](#)

## **GUN VIOLENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM**

How We Can Reduce Gun Violence While Also Transforming the Criminal Justice System

Please join the Illinois Gun Violence Prevention Coalition for a panel discussion about how we can reduce gun violence while also transforming the criminal justice system.

Friday, August 21, 2020  
11:00 am - 11:45 am  
Online (via Zoom)



[LEARN MORE](#)

## **NAMI CHICAGO COMMUNITY SURVEY**

Advocacy and Policy Priorities

[NAMI Chicago](#) is conducting a community survey to lift up the stories and experiences of our community. The survey will help them understand what the city and state need to do to support mental wellness in our communities. NAMI Chicago centers its work on lifting up the voices of individuals to create a more well community. Participants' experiences tell them what change is needed -- which is why they need your help.



**Survey** (English)

[LEARN MORE](#)

**Encuesta** (Spanish)

[APRENDE MAS](#)

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**NEWSLETTER CONTENT**

To have an event or article included in SCY's bi-monthly update, email Operations Coordinator [Kirstin Grabski](#).



STAY CONNECTED:



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