



Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings!

The continued spread of COVID-19 and the Omicron variant over the holiday season may still feel daunting, but we want to encourage everyone to view the start of 2022 as a new beginning in how far we have come. There are many locations to receive [vaccinations](#) and [boosters](#) as well as increased public health mandates such as proof of vaccination. Ending the pandemic may not be immediately near, but could be within grasp if we all do our part.

Sincerely,
Leslie Helmcamp
Executive Director
Strengthening Chicago's Youth
Patrick M. Magoon Institute for Healthy Communities
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

FEATURED ARTICLE: VOICES OF CHILD HEALTH IN CHICAGO REPORT Continuing Pandemic and Worsening Stress: Behavioral Health of Chicago's Children

As we approach the end of 2021, the second calendar year that the nation and world have grappled with the COVID-19 pandemic, Voices of Child Health in Chicago



Voices of Child Health
in Chicago

wanted to check in on the status of youth mental health in Chicago. Report highlights include: 46% of young children and 47% of older children experienced an increase in at least one mental health symptom; children who had a household member who was infected with COVID-19 were more likely to experience an increase in mental health symptoms than children who did not have a household member who had COVID-19.

[FULL REPORT](#)

VIRTUAL TOWN HALL

Human Trafficking

In recognition of National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, please join the [Illinois Attorney General](#) for a Town Hall to learn about the various ways the office is working to address the issues surrounding the prosecution and prevention of human trafficking including improving medical forensic services for human trafficking survivors.

Tuesday, January 11, 2022
11:00 am – 12:30 pm
Online (via Zoom)



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EQUITY

A Conversation on the Mission and Vision for Chicago Public Schools

Join [Chicago Beyond](#) for a conversation on equity in our schools with Chicago Public Schools CEO, Pedro Martinez, and Interim Chief Education Officer, Dr. Maurice Swinney.

Wednesday, January 12, 2022
2:30 pm
Online



[LEARN MORE](#)

ADVANCED ILLINOIS VICTIM ASSISTANCE ACADEMY

Webinar

This three-hour training will focus on best practices for working with victims of stalking and human trafficking. Topics to be covered include: the basics of stalking and similar harassing behaviors, the remedies available to survivors, and best practices to follow when encouraging survivors to preserve evidence and protect their privacy online. This training will also discuss the realities of human trafficking, the role the internet has played in the evolution of this crime and more.

Tuesday, January 25, 2022
9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Online



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DONATE

Supporting the work of SCY helps to grow the capacity of our team, resources and effort. To make a contribution, visit our [donation page](#).

NEWSLETTER CONTENT

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

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

