



Letter from the Communications and Community Outreach Manager

Greetings!

Recently, the FDA authorized a second booster dose of both the Pfizer–BioNTech and the Moderna COVID–19 vaccines for older people and certain immunocompromised individuals. Vaccines are still the best tool we have to prevent hospitalization and death from COVID–19 and its variants. We encourage all to visit the [Chicago Vaccine site](#) for ongoing developments.

Additionally, I feel I would be remiss if I did not mention the recent passage by the U.S. Congress of the Emmitt Till Anti–Lynching Act, which will make lynching a federal crime. Growing up as a young African American male on the Southside of Chicago who often traveled to the south to visit family, I was often told of the cautionary tale of Emmett Till. In a time where the words equity, diversity and inclusion are on the tips of many tongues, this is a leap forward in all Americans finding equal protection under the law. We applaud and celebrate the passage of this legislation and look forward to more to come.

Sincerely,
Dion McGill
Communications and Community Outreach Manager
Strengthening Chicago's Youth
Patrick M. Magoon Institute for Healthy Communities
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago

FEATURED ARTICLE: UJIMA: YOUTH–LED RESEARCH REPORT RELEASE AND INTERACTIVE DISCUSSION

Changing the Beat of Mental Health

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, [Communities United](#) and the Youth Leaders of the Ujima Project recently hosted a successful event featuring a panel of experts on new research led by young men of color shows that, for their peers, the normalization of trauma and systemic inequity is leading to worsening mental health. This hybrid event held on February 21 had over 170 attendees and highlighted that given their own lived experience, young men of color are best equipped to research their experiences with mental health within their communities and make recommendations for effective change. A key finding of the report is that the majority of participants feel that they have no safe outlets within the systems intended to

support them, sharing that they are more often a source of trauma than of healing. Other findings include:

- 66% of young men of color report that they are facing challenges with their mental health
- Young men of color see a deep connection between systemic inequities and mental health, and often internalize the blame
- Trauma is often normalized for young men of color

[FULL REPORT](#)

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[EVENT CALENDAR](#)

WORKSHOP

Trauma-Informed Practice, Part 3

Substance use, trauma and mental health disorders are intrinsically linked, generating a growing demand for trauma-informed care. Join the [National Overdose Prevention Network](#) for the final session in this 3-part series on trauma-informed practice, which will focus on how to utilize de-escalation tactics.

Tuesday, April 5, 2022
1:00 pm – 2:00 pm
Online (via Zoom)

[LEARN MORE](#)

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY AND VIOLENCE PREVENT SUMMIT

3rd Annual

A gathering of the Loyola, Proviso, and Chicagoland community to discuss advocacy and strategies to prevent violence in our communities. This year's event will provide first-hand perspectives of the effects of gun violence and how we can be advocates for change.

Wednesday, April 6, 2022
9:00 am – 12:30 pm
Loyola's Maywood Campus
2160 South 1st Avenue
CTRE Auditorium
Maywood, IL 60153



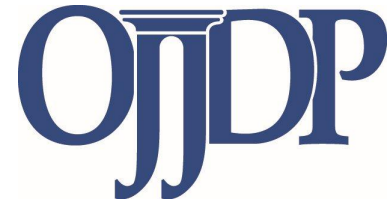
[LEARN MORE](#)

SHIFT WEBINAR SERIES PART 5

Behavioral Signs and Symptoms and How to Mitigate

This webinar will focus on the behavioral signs and symptoms of stress and share specialized resiliency tools and coping strategies to help professionals combat traumatic stress and develop personalized tools to help alleviate the effects of trauma.

Wednesday, April 13, 2022
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Online



[LEARN MORE](#)

SHIFT WEBINAR SERIES PART 6

Worldview Signs and Symptoms and How to Mitigate

This webinar will focus on the worldview signs and symptoms of stress and share specialized resiliency tools and coping strategies to help professionals combat traumatic stress and develop personalized tools to help alleviate the effects of trauma.

Wednesday, April 20, 2022
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm
Online



[LEARN MORE](#)

ANNOUNCING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (SJLA)

Foundations of Social Justice and Organizational Change

Join us for the first SJLA Learning Series event as we discuss empowering health professionals to better understand their role in facilitating change and supporting the advancement of health equity within a broader context of community diversity, inclusion and social justice.

Monday, April 25, 2022
12:30 pm – 1:45 pm
Online

NATIONAL COUNCIL
for Mental Wellbeing

HEALTHY MINDS • STRONG COMMUNITIES

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VOICES OF CHILD HEALTH IN CHICAGO REPORT

Update on Youth COVID-19 Vaccines in Chicago

In the latest Voices of Child Health in Chicago report, researchers review youth vaccination rates and parents' intentions to vaccinate their children for kids of different



Voices of Child Health
in Chicago

ages and in different city regions. Additionally explored is youth vaccination rates and parents' intentions to vaccinate their children over time. Report highlights include: 41% of children under 5 years old were very likely to get vaccinated when they are eligible, 22% were somewhat likely and 34% were not likely per their parent's report and more.

[FULL REPORT](#)

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 monthly update, email Operations Coordinator [Kirstin Grabski](#).

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

