



Letter from the Executive Director

Greetings!

SCY is thrilled to share that [HB4729](#) was recently passed and is awaiting Governor Pritzker's signature. This bill will fund a statewide public awareness campaign to promote safe firearm storage and develop a gun lock distribution pilot program through pediatrician offices and other community-based organizations. We thank all of you who took action to support HB4729 during the legislative session. But we still need your help. [Contact the Governor](#) and ask him to sign this bill into law immediately as one of the many steps we need to take to address violence and support parents with tools and information about safety.

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: UJIMA: YOUTH-LED RESEARCH REPORT 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

FIREARM RESTRAINING ORDERS

Another Option for Domestic Violence Survivors

Join this event hosted by [Between Friends](#) to explore domestic violence and gun violence in Illinois, what is the Firearm Restraining Order (FRO) and how is the FRO different from an Order of Protection.

Friday, May 6, 2022
12:00 pm – 1:10 pm
Online (via Zoom)

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STRUCTURAL & SYSTEMIC BIASES

Social Justice Leadership Academy Learning Series

This National Council for Mental Wellbeing webinar will center around the topic of bias, discrimination, and stigma at the personal, organizational, and community levels. The session will discuss how conscious and unconscious biases shape our daily thoughts and actions, and how bias paired with power creates social injustices.

Monday, May 16, 2022
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm
Online (via Zoom)

NATIONAL COUNCIL
for Mental Wellbeing

HEALTHY MINDS • STRONG COMMUNITIES

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TRAUMA-INFORMED AWARENESS DAY

Building a Healing Centered Illinois

The Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative is hosting a virtual event in honor of Illinois' fourth annual Trauma-Informed Awareness Day. This event will serve as a call for meaningful action to translate awareness about trauma into resilience-building and healing-centered transformative policies and practices across the state.

Wednesday, May 25, 2022
10:00 am – 11:30 am
Online (via Zoom)

Health & Medicine
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VOICES OF CHILD HEALTH IN CHICAGO REPORT

Parental Concerns about Climate Change

In the latest Voices of Child Health in Chicago report, Chicago parents' provide insight on concerns about climate change. According to the Harvard TH Chan School of Public



Voices of Child Health
in Chicago

Health, rising temperatures and decreased air quality affect kids by increasing the risk of asthma and allergies, worsening pregnancy outcomes and creating food insecurity. Report highlights include: Two-thirds of parents worry about climate change in general: 30% said they worry a great deal and 37% said a fair amount. Nearly three in four parents expressed concern about climate change affecting their family: 32% were very concerned and 40% were somewhat concerned.

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

