



Letter from Dion McGill

Dear SCY Community,

As I bid farewell to Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY), it is with a mix of emotions that I reflect on the remarkable journey we have shared. It has been a privilege to serve as the Manager of Communications and Community Outreach, contributing to initiatives that hold a special place in my heart.

One of the highlights of my time here has been collaborating on the Ujima project, a participatory action research endeavor that exemplifies the power of youth partnerships. Together, we forged connections, gathered insights, and worked to create meaningful change within our community. The ongoing Healing Through Justice initiative is another milestone, reaffirming our commitment to fostering healing and empowerment. I take immense pride in our collective efforts to elevate the organization's communications, particularly our strides in podcasting. This platform has allowed us to amplify voices, share stories, and engage in meaningful dialogue. As I move on to new horizons, I am confident that these initiatives will continue to thrive, making a lasting impact on the lives we touch.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to each member of this remarkable community. Your passion, dedication, and unwavering commitment to violence prevention have been a constant source of inspiration. It is the people—and the spirit of connection between community partners—that make this organization truly exceptional. While this farewell marks the end of one chapter, it also heralds the beginning of new possibilities. I carry with me the lessons learned, the friendships forged, and the shared victories that define our collective journey. As I embark on new adventures, I remain forever connected to the spirit of this organization and its mission.

Thank you all for being a part of this incredible chapter in my life. I am excited about the continued success and growth of SCY and look forward to witnessing the positive impact it will undoubtedly continue to have on our city.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Dion McGill

Former Manager of Communications and Community Outreach

Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY)

Patrick M. Magoon Institute for Healthy Communities

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

December 3
International Day of Persons
with Disabilities

December 7-15
Hanukkah

December 10
Human Rights Day

December 25
Christmas

December 26 - January 1
Kwanzaa

IDHS TRAUMA TRAINING

The Impact of Trauma on Youth

During this Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY) training, attendees will explore and understand the impact of trauma on youth and clients. This will include learning about ACEs, brain development, and common childhood trauma responses and behaviors. Together, attendees will discuss trauma-informed care response strategies to build resilient youth, families, and staff.



Fri, Dec 1 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Online (via Zoom)

[LEARN MORE](#)

11TH ANNUAL VIGIL

For All Victims of Gun Violence in Chicago

You are not alone. Embrace families of loved ones lost to gun violence. At hundreds of locations nationwide, help Chicago Survivors give voice to all victims and survivors of gun violence and together help #EndGunViolence in America.



Fri, Dec 1 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Augustana Lutheran Church
550 S. Woodlawn
Chicago, IL 606637

[LEARN MORE](#)

YOUTH EXPERIENCING HOUSING INSTABILITY

Two-Day Webinar

This ICOY training will provide supervisory and front-line staff working in DHS-funded Homeless Youth programs with the essential information they need to ensure effective practice and compliance with the program's regulations. Participants will learn how to engage homeless youth best and create the environments and programs that most effectively meet their needs.



Mon, Dec 4 and Tues, Dec 5
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Online (via Zoom)

[LEARN MORE](#)

TRAINING

Historical and Structural Trauma

Join the [Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative](#) for a free one-hour lunchtime session from their training series! In this event, participants will define historical and community trauma, discuss how collective experiences have been observed to impact individual health, and examine antidotes such as collective resilience and healing.

Health & Medicine
POLICY RESEARCH GROUP

Tues, Dec 5 | 12:00 PM
Online (via Zoom)

[LEARN MORE](#)

NEW YEAR: NEW START

Talking with Teens About Social Media and Mental Health

Parents and caregivers play an important role in guiding how children and teens use social media. But starting that conversation can be hard! How can we engage young people in useful conversations? What are some roadblocks to avoid? This live virtual event with the [National Council for Mental Wellbeing](#) will explain four keys to talking with youth in a way that can help drive them to make healthier choices.

NATIONAL COUNCIL
for Mental Wellbeing

HEALTHY MINDS • STRONG COMMUNITIES

Weds, Dec 6 | 3:00 PM
Online (via Zoom)

[LEARN MORE](#)

IDHS TRAUMA TRAINING

Vicarious Trauma

During this training, attendees will review the signs, symptoms, and risk factors of vicarious trauma. Participants will explore the stress responses that can be experienced and the best ways to support service providers. Participants will gain increased awareness and understanding of the potential impact of secondary trauma, while also gaining positive responses to vicarious trauma exposure.



Illinois
Collaboration
on Youth

Thurs, Dec 7 | 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Online (via Zoom)

[LEARN MORE](#)

IDHS TRAUMA TRAINING

Culture and Trauma

Trauma has context. That context oftentimes has cultural and historical roots. This [Illinois Collaboration on Youth \(ICOY\)](#) training will explore the relationship between trauma and culture by looking specifically at populations who are at high



Illinois
Collaboration
on Youth

Fri, Dec 8 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Online (via Zoom)

risk for experiencing trauma and traumatic stress at the hands of the systems and society exist in. Additionally, participants will gain understanding about the ways power and oppression impact individuals, communities, and access to resources.

[LEARN MORE](#)

IDHS TRAUMA TRAINING

Trauma-Informed Supervision

This [ICOY](#) training is designed for organizational supervisors to discuss our role and impact. As supervisors, we must recognize that our staff are clients of our organizations and experience workplace trauma. During this training, the facilitator will highlight tools for effectively building relationships, managing conflict, and communication skills within teams.



Illinois
Collaboration
on Youth

Weds, Dec 13 | 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Online (via Zoom)

[LEARN MORE](#)

IDHS SPECIAL TRAUMA TOPIC TRAINING

The Importance of Self-Care After Trauma

During this event, attendees will explore profound and lasting effects on a person's physical emotional, and psychological well-being after a traumatic experience. Participants will process physical recovery, emotional regulation, empowerment, and control. Participants will also gain an understanding of improving self-esteem, creating safe spaces, and long-term mental health supports.



Illinois
Collaboration
on Youth

Thurs, Dec 14 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Online (via Zoom)

[LEARN MORE](#)

9TH STATE OF HEALTH OF CHICAGO

Driving a Path to Reducing Healthcare Disparities

Join the [Institute of Medicine of Chicago](#) (IOMC) for their biannual meeting to define the critical issues impacting healthcare and public health from this convening with thought leaders. It will be a pivotal event as diverse leaders discuss and define imperative challenges that are barriers to advancing healthcare equity and reducing healthcare disparities. The purpose is to identify areas that demand attention for action and initiatives.



Thurs, Dec 14 | 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Grand Lux Cafe (The Rush Room)
600 N. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60611

[LEARN MORE](#)

HEALING THE HEALER

Supporting Workplace Well-Being

The Training Resource and Information Network (TRAIN) will be hosting this year's symposium with a focus on supporting workplace well-being in a one-day, in-person event. Hear from expert on their implemented strategies for building a stronger workplace culture. Breakout session topics include: supporting staff development through data-driven assessment and coaching; unraveling cultural bias while building cultural sensitivities; using restoration practice for conflict mediation; and more.



Tues, Dec 19 | 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM
North Park University
3225 W. Foster Ave.
Chicago, IL 60625

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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 monthly update, please send an email to Operations Specialist [Kirstin Grabski](#).

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



Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago | 225 E. Chicago Ave, Chicago, IL 60611

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