



The Chicago Department of Public Health shares the concern and sadness expressed by many about the plans to close Mercy Hospital, a staple institution on the South Side. We recognize and celebrate the historic role Mercy has played in providing care to many of Chicago's most vulnerable residents.

Our city's safety net hospitals are a source of medical care for low-income, uninsured and underinsured populations. They also serve as trusted community assets and sources of employment. We need more services, not less, for the residents that safety net hospitals serve. Yet we are seeing service reductions and gaps across safety net hospitals – not just at Mercy – including the closure of labor & delivery units in hospitals across the city's South Side. The closure of Mercy will create new gaps in trauma care/emergency care services, behavioral health care, services for people living with HIV/AIDS, substance use and addiction services, as well as emergency preparedness and response. Chicago's healthcare institutions and broader network of advocates and service providers must work to fill these gaps.

Although the City did not have a role in this decision nor in the operations, regulation or planning associated with hospitals and other healthcare providers, CDPH is committed to ensuring equitable access to the resources and environments that promote the optimal health and well-being of Chicago residents. We have a strong role to play in monitoring the changes across the health care system, gathering data, working with our partners across sectors to coordinate efforts, planning effective interventions and improving access to healthcare and human services. Health equity is CDPH's top concern and we will continue working to foster it throughout Chicago.