

Cook County Commissioners  
June 19, 2007

Dr. Robert R. Simon, M.D., Bureau of Health Services was on the carpet for over 2 hours. His lengthy power point presentation was not entirely negative but the huge budget cuts were fore the main topics discussed.

Dr. Simon likened the Stroger Hospital to a “Mayo Clinic” of public health. He feels that any accreditations the Hospital maybe in jeopardy of losing, can and will be remedied.

The medical service problems do not seem to be as insurmountable as the ability of the clerical department to properly bill and collect payments due the County for services rendered. This particular problem as been on going and should be no surprise to anyone.

Thomas Glaser, Chief Financial Officer of the Bureau of Health spoke of current plans for collecting debts that are just now being implemented.

Dr. Simon, who has had experience in setting up 54 cave hospital in Afghanistan and 24 in Iraq when asked the morale of this staff he said “it is as low as I have seen it” and indicated he is ready to step aside as Bureau Chief.

Comm. Forrest Claypool asked about a new strain of STD (sexually transmitted disease) currently common at the County Jail and if new detainees are being screened. Staff Dr. Couture explained that if a prisoner has an abscess they will lance it and give antibiotics but with 300 new arrestees a night they cannot be screened.

At the end of the regular board meeting, Comm. Suffredin called a meeting of the Legislation, Intergovernmental and Veterans Relations Committee. There are over 275,000 veterans in Cook County.

Richard Morbidoni, Superintendent of the Cook County Commission on Veterans Relations, stated that the commission, funded by Cook County general revenue, has a 3 person staff that help veterans with transportation to job interviews, rent and utilities if necessary.

Employers of veterans receive a \$600.00 tax credit.

Mary Ann Tate  
June 30, 2007