



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**BRIDGET GAINER, COOK COUNTY COMMISSIONER  
10<sup>th</sup> DISTRICT**

### **Contact Information**

312-603-4210

[Info@BridgetGainer.com](mailto:Info@BridgetGainer.com)

October 30, 2012

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### ***“GAINER LAUNCHES HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR UPTOWN COMMUNITY”***

**Chicago** – Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer (D-10) has launched a full Health Needs Assessment of Chicago’s Uptown neighborhood. Residents, healthcare providers and other community stakeholders will be asked to volunteer to fill out a survey ranging from questions on current personal health conditions to ease of access to health, dental and mental care.

“The Health Needs Assessment will show us how people in Uptown are accessing health care,” said Bridget Gainer, Cook County Commissioner (D-10) who represents the Uptown and Edgewater neighborhoods in the County’s 10<sup>th</sup> District, “this survey will also help pinpoint critical gaps in coverage and where to effectively focus available resources.”

Last conducted by Gainer in 2010, the Health Needs Assessment found serious gaps in dental, mental health and specialty care in the Uptown community, with more than half of respondents noting that they had not seen a dentist in over five years and 90% percent unaware of local mental health resources.

“I am proud to say the results of the 2010 survey did not go unnoticed and with the help and support of the Cook County Health and Hospital system and our neighborhood partners, we were able to fund additional services in both the dental and mental health area,” said Gainer. “There are many opportunities to use the County Health System to meet local health needs by coordinating with providers across the County.”

According to a summary on health needs by the Heartland Alliance, Lincoln Park has a medical professional-to-resident ratio of 1:719; in Uptown, it is 1:5,030. This shows a critical shortage of health care professionals given the population and health needs of the community area.

A survey for residents and healthcare providers are available in multiple languages online and in print at [www.BridgetGainer.com](http://www.BridgetGainer.com). Get updates on the survey progress by following us on Twitter @BridgetGainer using the hashtag #HNA2012.

###