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Civic Federation Position Statement

December 11, 2007

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* Executive Committee

☼ Past Chairmen's Council

Cook County Bureau of Health Services Independent Board of Directors

The Civic Federation **supports** the work of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services Review Committee and the Task Force on Independent Governance of the Cook County Bureau of Health on establishing an **independent governing board** for the Cook County Bureau of Health Services. We offer the following specific recommendations regarding the role and responsibilities of such a board:

- an independent governing board of directors for the Cook County Bureau of Health Services should be created immediately;
- the Bureau of Health Board of Directors should manage the day-to-day operations of the Bureau including hiring, firing, contracts, purchasing, and finances;
- the Bureau of Health CEO should be selected and hired by the Bureau Board of Directors, and be responsible to that board;
- the Bureau of Health Board of Directors should be composed of professional health managers with significant expertise in the management of a major healthcare operation; the board members should be appointed by the Cook County President subject to approval by the Cook County Board of Commissioners;
- the composition of the Bureau of Health Board of Directors should reflect geographic diversity by including members from different parts of Cook County;
- the Bureau of Health should develop and present an annual budget for approval to the Cook County Board of Commissioners;
- the Cook County Board of Commissioners should appropriate adequate funds for the Bureau of Health to enable the Bureau to carry out its mission; and
- the role of the Cook County Board of Commissioners should be limited to appropriating funds for the Bureau and exercising broad financial oversight; hiring decisions and daily management must be reserved for the independent governing board.

The Civic Federation commends the efforts of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services Review Committee and the Task Force to address the critical issues facing the Cook County Bureau of Health Services and we are pleased to support the creation of an independent governance board for the Bureau.