



The Kennedy Forum Illinois has made great strides in the **first half of 2016**. In six short months we have continued to execute our mission, explored new paths, and achieved results. The summary below offers a *brief overview* of **our accomplishments from January-June 30, 2016**, and plans for the rest of the year.

## **Community and Media Engagement to Combat Stigma**

Through innovative partnerships with the Chamber of Commerce, the Chicago Community Trust, The Lawyers Assistance Program, The Archdiocese of Chicago and The Urban League, the City of Chicago, The Illinois Hospital Association, Northern Trust and dozens of others, we have engaged tens of thousands of Illinoisans community conversations, workshops, and discussions with experts and persons with lived experience.

### Accomplishments

#### **On The Table**

On May 10, 2016, The Kennedy Forum generated more than [270 conversations](#) about mental health and addiction across the state reaching more than **3,000 people** during the Chicago Community Trust's On the Table initiative.

#### **Institute of Politics**

On April 26, Former Congressman Patrick Kennedy spoke at the Institute of Politics, gathering students and community members for an inspiring conversation. His [podcast on AXE Files](#) aired May 2.

*"It's days like today when I feel like I am not alone, when I see people who have gone through this before me and have come out on the other end stronger and braver, the way God intended for them to be. Thank you so much for being the type of boss who is not afraid to speak against the stigma and tell her own stories by welcoming discussions such as the one day, it helps more people than you realize."* - Kennedy Forum On the Table participant in a note to her CEO who convened the discussion on May 10.

#### **Workplace Mental Health**

On Thursday, March 31, 2016, The Kennedy Forum, Northern Trust, and the Chicago Chamber of Commerce Foundation hosted a breakfast for business leaders, "Beyond Accommodation: Mental Health in the Workplace." Nearly 100 business leaders attended the event at Northern

Trust. We developed and distributed a **toolkit** for attendees which remains available for [download](#) on our website.

## **Outreach**

Our newsletters and media reach thousands monthly. Visit our blog for current news and announcements. <http://thekennedyforumillinois.org/news/>

## On Deck

- Host a [breakfast September 9, 2016](#), with the Illinois Lawyers' Assistance Program to discuss a [landmark study](#) completed by the American Bar Association and Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation. The study highlights mental health and substance use disorders in the legal profession.
- Host our [3rd Annual Forum](#), December 6, 2016. The Forum is free - completely underwritten by sponsors and donors. This annual opportunity brings diverse stakeholders together with national thought leaders and experts to collaborate, learn and be inspired.

## **Improving Access to Care and Advancing Health Equity**

### Accomplishments

- Developed [resource materials](#) for advocates and providers in Illinois.
- [Launched](#) a monthly newsletter for providers and advocates in Illinois that tracks federal and state legal regulatory action. [Subscribe here.](#)
- Convened the Illinois Parity Implementation Coalition (PIC) [2] to work collaboratively with persons with lived experience, advocates and providers to improve implementation.
- This group has provided technical assistance and developed guidance for state agencies, drafted implementation recommendations, and worked to keep the implementation of state legislation on track. We work collaboratively with IDOI, HFS, and other state agencies.
- Participate on the Illinois Department of Insurance Workgroup. (HB1/PL 99-0480) required the Illinois Department of Insurance to set up a work group made up of insurers, providers, and behavioral health advocacy organizations.)
- IL has launched a [consumer hotline](#) and an outreach campaign.
- Provided technical assistance to other states, via Women in Government, The Kennedy Forum National Legal Workgroup, Parity Track, and other partners.
- Launched an [online story collection tool](#) to track individuals' experiences with accessing care.

## Next Steps

- Launch a consumer/provider education campaign in conjunction with a case assistance program.
- The PIC will conduct a survey of community and hospital providers to determine trends in denials for coverage and appeals; results will be publically released.
- Release additional tools to assist with oversight/implementation, for example, a template market conduct exam for Insurance Commissioners.

## **Care Coordination and Quality**

Advancing evidence-based integration models, like Collaborative Care, that have been proven to achieve better patient outcomes, increased patient and provider satisfaction, and a lowering of health care costs. At the same time, we are advancing significant improvements in the quality of mental health care and patient outcomes.

## Accomplishments

- CMS has put forward [new rules](#) that would pay for collaborative care nationally. CMS Chief Medical Officer Patrick Conway characterized it as “one of biggest steps forward in paying for mental and behavioral Health in US history.” CMS is proposing to pay for care using the behavioral health Collaborative Care Model. CMS is also proposing to pay for other approaches to behavioral health integration. These are both actions that directly result from the work of The Kennedy Forum, and the partners that have convened with us nationally and statewide.
- Since our convening of key systems leaders last May, most systems have been moving forward in implementing the [model](#), including Cook County Health System, Rush, Sinai and AMITA.

## Next Steps

- We are reconvening this group early this fall to discuss progress, challenges, and opportunities for collaboration.

## **Using Technology to help Connect to Care**

Our online [Connect](#) tool is live and uses public data to connect people in Chicago with over 300 resources, and we’re working to expand service listings statewide.

## Accomplishments

- Connect is currently being user tested via the [CUT Group](#), Civic User Testing Initiative.
- The Kennedy Forum has partnered with the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), [SMART Chicago](#), and the [Open Referral Initiative](#) to identify a sustainable path to a strong “211” type system in Chicago and Illinois.
- CDPH recently submitted a significant grant proposal to SAMHSA that we hope may support some of this work. The Kennedy Forum assisted with this effort.

## Next Steps

- Achieving consensus about the vision and path to a sustainable system for our City and State, The Kennedy Forum will lead this process with key partners.

## **Prevention and Early Intervention**

The Kennedy Forum is committed to advancing prevention and early intervention in mental health.

## Accomplishments

- The Kennedy Forum recently released a new Issue brief on this topic, available [here](#).

## Next Steps

- On December 6, 2016, The Kennedy Forum’s annual convening will focus on youth mental health and addiction. Youth are involved in both planning the event, and will be featured speakers and moderators. We are working with groups including Lurie Children’s Hospital, Mikva Challenge, University of Chicago, Project 365.

## **Citywide Mental Health and Emergency Response**

As a result of our [recommendations](#), on January 29, Mayor Emanuel announced the formation of a **Citywide Mental Health Response Steering Committee (MHRSC)** as a mechanism to recommend and implement reforms and policy recommendations to improve the City’s training and response to individuals with mental illness, develop new ideas for improved service delivery, effectively engage the community, and help evaluate the City’s progress.

## Accomplishments

- Gathered necessary data to strategically focus efforts on communities and persons with greatest need, and the persons that influence them.
- Convened providers and organized available mental health first aid training and CIT awareness resources around areas of greatest need.
- Coordinated with CDPH to implement a “wrap-around” public health campaign that reinforces messaging.

## Next Steps

- Implement a pilot in west side communities this fall, including Garfield Park and Austin, in police districts 15, 11, and 10.
- Convene and conduct community-based planning meetings and informed by this input, broader engagement of community messengers and groups.
- Develop and disseminate outreach materials.
- Track, measure and evaluate reach and impact of the pilot through a study conducted by the University of Illinois-Chicago.
- Research other crisis response models, including co-responder models, in other cities, conducting site visits to cities like Los Angeles, which have been implementing approaches showing promise.
- Identify best practice approaches to identifying high-use and high-need individuals and link them to treatment.
- Work to implement the de-escalation recommendations of the Task Force.
  - Work with local and national experts to learn from the experience of other cities under DOJ consent decrees/agreements, work to address issues proactively, informed by work that other cities have done.
  - Provide ongoing technical assistance support to the CPD and the City and providing quality assurance that best practices are being implemented.