

RESOLUTION

**Sponsored by
PETER N. SILVESTRI, COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

**Cosponsored by
TONI PRECKWINKLE, PRESIDENT
BRIDGET GAINER, COUNTY COMMISSIONER**

WHEREAS, Cook County is facing an oral health care crisis; and

WHEREAS, with one of the lowest reimbursement rates in the country, Illinois is leaving thousands of hard working Cook County families caught in a painful, degrading and sometimes life threatening oral health care gap; and

WHEREAS, one third of Illinois' underserved population resides in Cook County and 1.4 million county residents rely on government sponsored dental care; and

WHEREAS, the number of children and adults enrolled in public aid programs continue to increase, while critical oral health care programs remain unfunded; and

WHEREAS, in Cook County, 64 percent of third graders have had cavities and 39 percent have untreated cavities; and

WHEREAS, there is often a 3 to 12 month wait for specialty dental treatment, which in many cases, results in more expensive emergency care; and

WHEREAS, there is a medically proven link between overall health and oral health, with studies showing that poor oral health may be linked to heart disease, stroke, pre-term child birth and oral cancer.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Cook County Department of Public Health shall collect a complete inventory of county dental services including clinic location, hours of operation, a list of staff at each location, salary/hourly compensation of each employee, number of patients served, population served, length of time a patient must wait to see a dentist for general care and specialty care, procedures performed, clinics closed in the last ten years, including clinic location, date opened and date closed, and remaining inventory; and report back to the County Board within 30 days of the passage of this resolution.

Approved and adopted this 19th day of January, 2011.