

May 1, 2024

Dear Neighbor,

I want to start by thanking you for sharing your ideas on how we can improve health and wellness on the South Side. Your voice is critical to building a healthier community, and we look forward to your continued partnership.

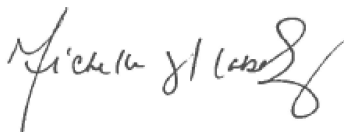
Over the last four weeks, more than 350 of you joined us to discuss the current state of health in our community and imagine what the future could and should look like. Here is what you have told us so far:

- **Access to preventative care, support and health education are very important.**
You want more access to primary and specialty care close to home, and shorter wait times for appointments and at appointments. You want options other than the emergency room, that have extended hours that work with your schedule. And you want facilities that offer leading edge treatment options and state-of-the-art technology. While we continue to evaluate the best way to provide additional access to care, I'm pleased to share we recently opened a walk-in clinic across the street from Advocate Trinity Hospital to help patients with non-life-threatening conditions find easier access to care and shorter wait times outside of the Emergency Room. You can find information about our newest walk-in clinic [here](#).
- **You want to be better heard and understood.**
You want more doctors who reflect the community and who listen to you. You don't want to be just talked at -- you'd like to be more of a partner in your care.
- **Social drivers of health are a big factor in overall wellness.**
You want more access to healthy food options, exercise and fitness centers, safety around hospitals and clinics, transportation, and employment support.
- **Healthcare is expensive.**
Insurance shouldn't control whether you are healthy or not. You shared that high costs for co-pays and medicine can prevent you from getting the care you need.

Please keep the ideas and input coming! Visit MyVoiceMyHealth.com to submit them.

Once again, thank you for joining us on the journey to achieve health and wellness on the South Side that goes beyond a hospital and its four walls. Your ideas have us excited for the future we are building together!

Sincerely,



Michelle Y. Blakely, PhD
President, Advocate Trinity Hospital