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## **Seniors Due for a Check-Up at Men's Health Day** *CHA and Provident Hospital Team Up for Health Fair*

CHICAGO – June is Men's Health Month, and to spread awareness of health-related issues among senior men, Cook County Board President Todd Stroger and Chicago Housing Authority CEO Lewis A. Jordan will be on hand for "Men's Health Day," a mini-health fair sponsored by CHA Senior Supportive Services and Provident Hospital of Cook County.

"Men's Health Day" will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, June 13, at Patrick Sullivan Senior Apartments, 1633 W. Madison Street. It will include screenings, for blood pressure, diabetes, prostate cancer and HIV/AIDS. The CHA is also offering free transportation from select senior-designated buildings, to ensure that a large number of residents have the opportunity to participate.

Nearly 200 people have signed up to attend.

"We thought it was important to have as many seniors attend this event as possible," said CHA chief Lewis A. Jordan. "The information offered at this fair will help debunk myths, catch warning signs and give seniors tips they can use to avoid health complications and fully enjoy their golden years."

One focus of "Men's Health Day" is prostate cancer - the most common form of cancer among African-American men, and the second most common form of cancer among all men. The American Red Cross predicts that one in six men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime, but only one in 35 will die from it.

According to the American Cancer Society, the five-year survival rate for prostate cancer is 100 percent when detected early. The five-year survival rate drops to 32 percent when detected later.

"The message is clear - early detection is key," says President Stroger, who underwent surgery for prostate cancer last year.

The health fair also hopes to curb the rise of HIV/AIDS in older populations. Traditionally stereotyped as a health risk among younger people, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention projected that people aged 50 and older accounted for 15% of new HIV/AIDS diagnoses in 2005.

"The truth is that with the availability of prescription drugs that treat erectile dysfunction, more seniors are remaining sexually active in their old age without being properly educated about safer sex practices," says Dr. Courtney Hollowell, a Chicago urologist and Men's Health Day guest speaker.

Other guest speakers include Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Terry Mason

and CHA Press Secretary and radio host Derek Hill, who will serve as Master of Ceremonies. All attendees will receive a free gift, lunch and a chance to enter a raffle. For more information about CHA senior programs, call Donna Dixon, CHA Director of Senior Supportive Services at 312.913.7400.

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#### **About the Chicago Housing Authority**

The CHA was created by state legislation in 1937 to create and expand affordable housing opportunities for low income families and seniors. Today, through federal and other resources, the CHA assists approximately 35,000 families who participate in the Housing Choice Voucher program in private units owned by private landlords. In addition, the CHA owns 15,500 units for families in scattered site, traditional public housing or mixed income developments and 9,500 units of housing for senior citizens in 56 senior developments across the city.

#### **About the Plan for Transformation**

In 1999, the City of Chicago began a multi-billion dollar, 15-year initiative to renovate or replace the CHA's entire portfolio of 25,000 public housing units throughout the city. Currently, 61percent of the units have been completed, including the comprehensive renovation of the entire senior developments and scattered-site stock. Eighty percent of the portfolio is scheduled to be complete by 2009. The Plan is a collaboration between the CHA, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the City of Chicago and its many agencies, area businesses and non-profit organizations.