

# State Representative Karina Villa



IL 49TH DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

JULY 21, 2020

Welcome friends. Can you believe it's already the third week of July? Where has the time gone? School will start soon, in one form or another and then the holidays will be upon us. So much has happened and our office is committed to continue getting accurate information in a timely fashion. We hope to see you soon.

## In-District

By now three of my advisory committees have met. If you haven't been involved, but would like to, you can contact my office at [StateRepKarinaVilla@gmail.com](mailto:StateRepKarinaVilla@gmail.com) for details.

The Mental Health Advisory Committee met on Thursday the 16th to discuss setting priorities and goals as we move forward; telehealth; the impacts of COVID and the Black Lives Matter movement on mental health; as well the partnership between law enforcement and mental health professionals. The next meeting of the Mental Health Advisory Committee is scheduled for August 20, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. Please contact the advisory chairs at [mentalhealth.49th@gmail.com](mailto:mentalhealth.49th@gmail.com) for a meeting link.

Seniors resumed their meetings last Friday morning. It was so good to see everyone again. Participants shared information for the state of Illinois' [Illinois Assistive Technology Program](#). The program provides technology

devices for socially isolated seniors and persons with disabilities in Illinois.

In addition to discussions of socially isolated seniors, the committee covered topics from the upcoming medicare seminar, Ageguide's Senior Lifestyle Virtual Expo, how to responsibly engage volunteers as well as providing guardianship for Veterans.

Lastly, members reported that the ADA pass for transportation which prior to COVID required a trip to Chicago. At this time, interested individuals should complete as much of the application as is possible, then call the RTA's [ADA Paratransit Certification program](#) at 312-663-HELP (4357). A representative will contact the individual within 72 hours for a determination of eligibility. Once eligibility is determined, a six month pass will be issued.

The August Senior Advisory Committee meeting is set for the 14th at 10:00 a.m. Please email the advisory chairs at [seniors.49th@gmail.com](mailto:seniors.49th@gmail.com) for a meeting link.

## School District Updates

By this time many, if not all, school districts have put their fall return to school plans in place based on recommendations from the Illinois State Board of Education. I would recommend you check your district's website

for details. You can find that information here: [U-46](#), [St. Charles](#), [Geneva](#), [Batavia](#), [West Chicago High School](#), [West Chicago District 33](#), [Indian Prairie](#), and [West Aurora](#).

In case you missed it, the Education Advisory Committee held their July meeting. In anticipation of the August meeting where a representative from the Illinois State Board of Education will be joining us, we compiled questions regarding the return to school in the Fall under COVID circumstances. For upcoming meeting information, contact [education.49th@gmail.com](mailto:education.49th@gmail.com).

## New Mitigation Plan

We've all seen the news that states all across our country are having to backtrack and re-think their opening strategies while here in Illinois we continue to have one of the highest rates of testing, with lower hospitalization. However, we must recognize that to remain strong in our battle against COVID we must plan for combating a resurgence of cases. To that end, the Governor & IDPH Director, Dr. Ngozi Ezike announced a new COVID-19 mitigation plan that includes newly defined regions. No longer are we included in Chicago and Cook County. Dupage & Kane comprise the **West Suburban** region alone.

Continuing to rely on science and data, the

following metrics will be utilized to determine the spread and response as follows:

- Sustained increase in 7 day rolling average (7 out of 10 days) in the positivity rate and one of the following severity indicators:
  - Sustained 7 day increase in hospital admissions for a COVID-19 like illness;
  - Reduction in hospital capacity threatening surge capability (ICU capacity or medical/surgical beds less than 20%)
- OR 3 consecutive days average 8% or more positivity rate.

For detailed information, please visit <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>

## What's Next?

This Thursday evening the Environment Advisory Committee will host its very first virtual meeting. If you are interested in participating, email the advisory chair at [environment.49th@gmail.com](mailto:environment.49th@gmail.com) for meeting links.

