

**Minutes of the  
Chicago Board of Health  
Wednesday, March 15, 2023  
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM  
DePaul Center  
333 S. State Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)**

**I. Roll Call**

Quorum was established based upon the following:

<b>Present In-Person:</b>	Janet Lin, MD, MPH, MBA Joel Johnson, MEd Óscar Iván Zambrano, MPH, MBA, CDM Debra Wesley, MSW
Online:	Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN
Absent:	Rosa Martínez Colón, MS Horace E. Smith, MD Matthew M Davis, MSW Steven Rothschild, MD

For the Department: Allison Arwady, MD, MPH, Commissioner  
Chicago Department of Public Health

**II. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Janet Lin, M.D., Board President.

**III. Approval of the Minutes**

The Board voted and approved the February minutes.

**IV. Commissioner's Update**

Commissioner Arwady provided the following department wide COVID and non-COVID updates:

- **Bureau of Behavioral Health:**
  - CDPH just surpassed 100,000 fentanyl test strips distributed to the community since distribution began in October 2021. Mental Health Initiatives served 73,899 individuals in total. The Trauma-Informed Centers of Care initiative successfully expanded mental health services to all 77 of Chicago's communities to provide low barrier access to mental health services.
- **Bureau of Community Health Strategy**
  - Settlement against Juul Labs for about 24 million dollars for e-cigarette and vaping marketing to teens and children. The City has also filed against tobacco companies in the past, but this is the largest settlement of them all.
- **Bureau of Maternal, Infant, Child and Adolescent Health**
  - Released the 2019-2021 Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention & Data Report was released at the end of February. Provides overview of the CDPH Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program, discusses the next steps planned in lead poisoning prevention work and highlights current Chicago lead data. Chicago has made great progress in reducing childhood lead poisoning. In 1996, the estimated prevalence

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of blood lead levels of 5 ug/dL or greater among Chicago children was 70.2%, by 2021 it had decreased to 1.8%

- Diaper dollar program launching. Eligible families receiving CDPH home nurse visit will receive diaper dollars of about \$40 a month for 6 months.
- **Bureau of Syndemic Infectious Disease**
  - Healthcare providers and clinicians are key to our success in stopping the rising of congenital syphilis through timely diagnosis and adequate treatment. Focusing on prenatal care and connecting expecting moms to care.
- **Bureau of Health Protection**
  - Working with emergency preparedness to highlight HCEZs and efforts to get more funding for those types of responses.
  - Pushing COVID-19 vaccine boosters and staying aware of cases to contain outbreaks in long-term care facilities.
  - CDPH just started a partnership with CIMPAR to provide COVID-19 treatments in high-risk settings like long-term care facilities.
  - Protect Chicago at Home vaccines program still operational three days a week: Saturday, Sunday, Monday.

**Board Member Comments and Questions**

- Carmen Vergara: Asked whether there had been communication with prenatal care providers on congenital syphilis.
- Dr. Janet Lin: Asked how the Board of Health can be a support related to the labor agreement. Asked about the terms of allocation of the Juul settlement. Asked about the ending of the COVID-19 public health emergency declaration and funding.

**V. Board President's Comments**

Comments regarding standing business and new business will be made after the presentation.

**VI. Presentations**

Title: Adolescent Sexual Health

Presenter: Alexandra Sophia Sontag, MSN, DNP, RN, APRN, CNL, FNP-BC, Director School Health Nursing, Chicago Department of Public Health

**Board Member Comments and Questions:**

- Debra Wesley: Has there been connection to Title 10 holders? How do we engage more parents with expecting teen parents?
- Óscar Iván Zambrano: How does this work fit into HIV prevention?
- Dr. Lin: Is pregnancy testing included in the school based STI testing program?

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**VII. Public Comments**

John Barrlet, Metropolitan Tenants Organization - Chicago Healthy Homes Ordinance and proactive inspections: Improved systems of inspections for building and apartments in Chicago. Requesting the city to be more proactive when it comes to inspections.

**VIII. Standing Business**

- **Policy Updates**
  - i. Sustainable and flexible funding for public health
  - ii. Public health emergency ending May 11, 2023
  - iii. Data modernization and access from the federal level to the state level
  - iv. Human service workforce advancement ordinance and labor peace agreement
  - v. Clean and affordable building ordinance to all newly/majorly constructed buildings in Chicago
  - vi. Amendment of Municipal Code Title 5 adding new chapter
    - 1. Chapter 5-25 “Chicago Healthy Homes Check-Up Pilot Program”
    - 2. Chapter 5-26 “Rental Housing Unit Registry”
- **Finance Update**
  - i. Delegate Agency Voucher Update
    - 1. CDPH has had great success in awarding and executing contracts. This has been partly because of increased hiring and lessons learned. From the Comptroller’s side, we have seen that delegate agency payments have been processed in a timely manner.

**IX. New Business**

There was no new business.

**X. Old Business**

There was no old business.

**XI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:32 am by Dr. Janet Lin, Board President.