

Chicago Board of Health
April 21, 2021
Virtual Meeting
By Remote Means

Pursuant to applicable law, the President determined that an in-person meeting was not practical or prudent. Accordingly, attendance at this meeting was via remote means only.

Roll Call

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President
Juan M. Calderon
Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.
Melanie Dreher, RN, PhD.
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., DDS, MPH
Victor M. Gonzalez
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.
Horace E. Smith, M.D.
Joseph B. Starshak

For the Department

Allison Arwady, M.D., Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:01am by Board President, Dr. Carolyn Lopez.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the March 2021 meeting were approved by the Board.

Commissioner's Update: Dr. Arwady presented Board members with an overview of the City's efforts on COVID-19, provided an update on vaccine distribution, COVID-19 variants, and also informed the Board about progress with the City's vaccine equity initiatives. Dr. Arwady provide a brief overview of the City's faith-based vaccination efforts in April, following the successful model of senior vaccination month in March. Dr. Arwady also informed Board members the City-managed vaccination sites would soon open to individuals 16 and older, for Pfizer vaccine, and also begin to offer walk-in registration. Dr. Arwady informed Board members the City will soon begin to announce additional reopening measures. Dr. Arwady also provided an update to Board members on Healthy Chicago 2025 and CDPH's behavioral health initiatives. Dr. Arwady indicated to Board member CDPH is working hard to continue strengthening, and expand, the City's public health workforce which has benefitted recently from temporary federal support via COVID-19 relief funds. Dr. Arwady took a moment to thank outgoing Board members for all of their support to CDPH and the City over the years.

Board Member Comments: Dr. Evans inquired about COVID-19 variants and their association with recent surges in cases. Mr. Starshak inquired about recent downturn in cases associated with increases in vaccinations. Mr. Calderon inquired about future funding opportunities for community based organizations that would be available from new federal COVID-19 relief funds. Mr. Calderon also inquired about equity within CDPH's HIV-STI programs. Mr. Calderon also inquired whether CDPH had a role over police-related matters (specifically referenced was the recent shooting of Adam Toledo). Dr. Lopez inquired about the City's vaccination outreach efforts for individuals aged 65 and older.

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Public Comments: No oral public comments. The Board liaison indicated one written public comment was received on the topic of the American Public Health Association's calling of police violence as a public health issue.

Board President Comments: Dr. Lopez thanked outgoing board members for all their work on the City's Board of Health over the past several years and asked Board members to provide a reflection on their experiences serving on the Board.

Board Member Comments:

Each board member shared a brief overview of their years of service on the Chicago Board of Health, including accomplishments, as well both personal and professional development, via their service on the Board. Board members also provided ideas on how new board members, while advisory in nature, could continue to serve the City and CDPH in an important role as trusted partners on matters relating to public health, including resources and advocacy. Dr. Lopez once again thanked the outgoing Board members for all their time and efforts contributing to the work of the Chicago Board of Health, and indicated the important work of the Board would continue.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM.

<p>The April 21, 2021 meeting is the final regular meeting for board members serving current terms on the Chicago Board of Health. Effective May 1, 2021, under Chicago Municipal Ordinance (O2021-4050) newly appointed board members will begin to serve terms.</p>
