Three years ago this month, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) was signed into law. Since that time, we have seen significant increases in public health and prevention funding, and withstood serious legal challenges to the law. Services to women, young adults and children with pre-existing conditions have been expanded. With the Medicaid 1115 Waiver granted to the Cook County Health and Hospitals System, Medicaid enrollment of currently uninsured residents began this year, well in advance of the 2014 mandated eligibility date. Despite these successes, in many ways the real work is just beginning. Earlier this month, the Illinois Senate approved Senate Bill 26 (SB26) which expands the State’s Medicaid program, a move that is necessary to ensure the success of the ACA. Specifically, SB26 will leverage Medicaid to cover uninsured individuals earning approximately $15,000 a year, or less. The federal government will pay 100% of the cost for the first two years, dropping to 90% by 2020. Overall, the program is essential to ensuring society’s most vulnerable populations have access to health care and reducing costly emergency department visits. I urge you to join CDPH and support the passage of SB26 through the House by calling or emailing your state Representative.

Sincerely,

Bechara Choucair, M.D.
On February 28, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett and CDPH Commissioner Bechara Choucair unveiled the Healthy CPS Action Plan, which contains 60 detailed, district-wide and concrete strategies to improve the health and wellness of Chicago’s students. The plan builds on the Healthy Chicago Agenda by outlining specific goals for student health. The Healthy CPS Action Plan can be found at [http://tinyurl.com/HealthyCPS](http://tinyurl.com/HealthyCPS). (Multiple Strategies)

In recognition of National Condom Week (February 14-21), the Chicago Community Condom Project teamed up with City Colleges of Chicago to host campus-based information tables and workshops on proper condom use and the benefits of practicing protected sex. The Chicago Community Condom Project’s mission is to distribute 10 million free condoms per year through collaboration and community partners. For more information, go to [http://tinyurl.com/ChicagoCommunityCondomProject](http://tinyurl.com/ChicagoCommunityCondomProject). (HIV Prevention)

On February 14, the Chicago Department of Public Health unveiled a new app that integrates health and wellness technology to help mobile users assess their risk for heart disease. The app provides information about heart disease risk, allows users to see if they are making progress on health goals, and offers both a traditional and game version. CDPH and AT&T teamed up to launch the app, which works on the Apple iPad, iPhone and iPod Touch. The app can be downloaded at [http://www.hearthealthmobile.com](http://www.hearthealthmobile.com). (Heart Disease & Stroke)

CDPH and Chicago Public Schools recently released a new report, Overweight and Obesity in CPS Students. The report provides a comprehensive look at the childhood obesity epidemic. Using over 59,794 de-identified student physical exam records of students enrolled in kindergarten, sixth grade, and ninth grade in the 2010-11 school year, the analysis finds that the overall prevalence of obesity for the three grades was 25%. The full report is online at [http://tinyurl.com/childhoodobesityreport](http://tinyurl.com/childhoodobesityreport). (Obesity Prevention)

On February 25, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and CPS CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett announced the expansion of the District’s Full Day Kindergarten program. All 30,700 students entering CPS next fall will be guaranteed access to the program. This is a 50% increase in access to full-day kindergarten since 2011.

The Child Health Data Lab of the Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago recently released a brief on Bullying & Body Weight. The analysis uses data from the Illinois Youth Risk Factor Behavior Survey. Among other findings, the results show that those who are bullied at school are more likely to be obese, more likely to be trying to lose weight, and more likely to have vomited to lose weight. To read the brief, go to [http://tinyurl.com/BullyingBodyWeight](http://tinyurl.com/BullyingBodyWeight). (Violence Prevention)

The Chicago Dating Matters Initiative (CDMI) hosted its inaugural i2i Communications campaign event last month, engaging 100 youth from CDMI participating schools. The event was held at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Park & Family Entertainment Center on the city’s Southwest side, where many of the youth reside. The event included skating, activities, and discussions about healthy relationships and appropriate communication in interpersonal relationships. (Violence Prevention)
HEALTHY CHICAGO IMPLEMENTATION

- On February 28, over 6,500 CPS students joined First Lady Michelle Obama at McCormick Place to celebrate the third anniversary of her Let’s Move! Campaign and the introduction of the Let’s Move! Active Schools, both of which coincided with the release of the Healthy CPS Action Plan. Across the district, fifth through seventh graders participated in the interactive, high energy event that was designed to inspire students to eat healthy and stay active. The goal of the Let’s Move! Initiative is to solve the problem of childhood obesity within a generation. (Obesity Prevention)

First Lady Michelle Obama and Chicago Public Schools students at Let’s Move! Celebration.

HEALTHY CHICAGO POLICY HIGHLIGHTS

- On February 20, the Chicago Board of Health issued a letter to the Illinois General Assembly to vote “yes” on House Bill 61 to repeal Section 2a of the Communicable Disease Prevention Act. Section 2a requires health departments to reveal the identity of students who test positive for HIV to their principal. In the letter, the Chicago Board of Health states that due to increased knowledge of HIV since the law’s passage 25 years ago, there are no legitimate reasons for keeping the law on the books. (HIV Prevention)

- On February 28, Illinois SB26 passed the Senate. If it passes through the House, the Bill will expand Medicaid eligibility. Beginning January 1, 2014, in accordance with the Affordable Care Act individuals with incomes of up to 133% poverty will be eligible for the Medicaid program, which will provide new coverage for many more adults ages 19-64 who are uninsured. (Access to Care)

- The Chicago Board of Education passed a new sexual health education policy that will make CPS the largest urban U.S. school district with an established and comprehensive sexual health education curriculum specifically designed for every grade level, ensuring age-appropriate material and minimum instructional minutes for each grade across a broad scope of family and sexual health education topics. (Adolescent Health)

- On March 7, the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization was signed by President Barack Obama. The reauthorization includes the continuation of effective programs, expanded protections for gay couples and Native American women, and provisions for the prevention of violence. (Violence Prevention)

- Last week, the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Chancellor announced that effective July 1, 2013, UIC will become a Tobacco-Free Campus. UIC will launch a public awareness campaign that will engage and inform its 27,500 students as well as faculty, staff, patients and visitors and educate them about the health risks and lifestyle challenges associated with tobacco. UIC joins three other institutions of higher education and five hospitals in adopting smoke-free campus policies to express their commitment to making Chicago healthier. (Tobacco Use)

- As a result of Cook County’s Tobacco Tax Ordinance, on March 1, cigarette taxes were raised by $1 per pack. Researchers estimate that the increase will keep 18,000 young people from becoming smokers. (Tobacco Use)
Healthy Chicago Grant News

- The Asian Health Coalition (AHC) recently received a $50,000 grant from the Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) to continue its work in the Chinatown neighborhood and to implement policy and environmental changes to address obesity prevention. (Obesity Prevention)

CDPH received the following awards:
- A continuation grant award for $400,000 from the Cook County Torrens Fund, which will be used to abate lead paint hazards in homes with young children. (Healthy Homes)
- $9,743,315 of continuation funding (partial award) from HRSA for the Ryan White CARE Act Part A program to provide health care, specialty care, and support services to persons with HIV/AIDS in the nine county eligible metropolitan area. (HIV Prevention)
- $25,000 in new funds from IDPH for the Biosense program. (Public Health Infrastructure)
- A grant award from IDPH for $672,444 for the Mosquito Vector Control program. These funds are used to purchase and apply larvicide to kill larvae that are potentially infected with West Nile Virus. Surveillance activities are also covered for monitoring the course of the disease and determining the appropriate areas for spraying to kill infected adult mosquitoes. (Communicable Disease Control & Prevention)

Getting The Word Out

- The Chicago Park District is partnering with MEND Foundation to launch an admission free, 10-week healthy lifestyle program open to families with children ages 7-13 who are above a healthy weight at Palmer Park, 201 E. 11th Street. The classes will take place twice a week after school from April 1st - June 19th, 2013. In the program, families will find out how to read food labels and take part in fun nutrition sessions. They will also learn about healthy portion sizes and will be shown the effect different foods have on their health and wellbeing. During the program, children will also take part in a wide variety of fun physical activities and games. Registration is required for the classes. Please contact Kelly Haley at 312-890-7059 or Kelly.haley@chicagoparkdistrict.com to register or get more information. (Obesity Prevention)

- The Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) is seeking interested and qualified respondents to provide case management services, referrals service coordination, and advocacy for all youth aged 10-16 years and 17 years olds who have been charged with misdemeanors only, arrested in seven Chicago police districts (districts 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 21 and may include district 11, and 15) and processed at the Juvenile Intervention Support Center (JISC). Interested applicants are asked to download the complete Request for Proposal (RFP) which includes application, instructions and a program description at www.cityofchicago.org/fss.

- The Chicago Safe Start (CSS) citywide collaborative and the Chicago Department of Public Health, Office of Violence Prevention are excited to announce the week of April 15, 2013 as Childhood Exposure to Violence (CEV) Prevention Week. Continuing the “Every Person, Every Day!” theme for this year’s observance, we believe that EVERY PERSON can do something EVERY DAY to protect children from exposure to violence. Check www.chicagosafestart.net for CEV Prevention and Awareness Week updates, to register for the week’s events and to nominate individuals and organizations for the Community Spirit Awards. (Violence Prevention)

To get involved in the Healthy Chicago movement email CDPH at HealthyChicago@cityofchicago.org.