

Chicago Board of Health  
August 18, 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, MD, President  
Joel Johnson, MEd  
Rosa E. Martínez Colón, MS  
Steve Rothschild, MD  
Horace E. Smith, MD  
Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN  
Debra Wesley, MSW

For the Department

Allison Arwady, MD, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am by Board President, Dr. Carolyn Lopez.

**Approval of Minutes:** BOH members accepted the July meeting minutes.

**Commissioner's Update:** Dr. Arwady provided updates on COVID-19 and several CDPH initiatives.

- As part of its budget process, the City held a series of neighborhood-based budget meetings. The primary questions that came up for CDPH were on mental health services. Dr. Arwady was able to inform the public about Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement (CARE) initiative, i.e., where CDPH's behavioral health professionals are embedded in the 911 system to answer calls, provide support and assessment. Mental health professionals also are dispatched into the community with teams from the Chicago Police Department and Chicago Fire Department.
- CDPH issued five RFPs for qualified organizations to fund community response and linkage to help end the HIV epidemic in Cook County. These RFPs are prioritizing smaller BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) organizations
- As part of our strategic planning process, we conducted an employee survey, with good response rate. We will share findings when they have been fully analyzed.

**Board President Comments:** Dr. Lopez encouraged Board Members to share the information from these meetings with their organizations and colleagues. Board Members may also be asked to provide testimony on a range of topics and provide expertise and background information when CDPH is preparing a resolution being brought to the BOH for passage.

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**Presentation: What is the Emergency Preparedness Program? Christopher Shields, Assistant Commissioner, BS, EMT-P:** Christopher Shields shared the work of the CDPH Emergency Preparedness Program. This program began in 2002, with a focus on bioterrorism, ensuring a pharmacological capacity and working with external partners. The program assesses all types of risks along with the needs of the population and develops plans, conducts trainings and runs exercises to assess and adjust these plans. In 2019, they conducted the Crimson Contagion exercise that was helpful to the current work on COVID-19. Christopher Shields also shared the learnings from the COVID-19 response

**Public Comments:** One written comment was submitted and will be shared with the Board. The issues identified in the written comment were covered in Dr. Arwady's report.

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 10:21 AM.