

Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health Meeting
Wednesday, May 18, 2022

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
DePaul Center
333 S. State Street, 2nd Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)
In-Person Meeting

I. Roll Call

Based on attendance quorum was not established:

Present: Carolyn C. Lopez, MD, President
Janet Lin, MD, MPH, MBA
Joel Johnson, M.Ed
Steve Rothschild, MD

Absent: Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN
Debra Wesley, MSW
Horace E. Smith, MD
Matthew M. Davis, MD, MPP
Rosa E. Martinez Colón, MS

For the Department

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

II. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes for April were not approved due to lack of quorum.

IV. Commissioner's Update

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

- The Maternal, Infant, Child, and Adolescent Health efforts are expanding. CDPH is doing some interdepartmental work bringing together people who work with schools, and especially Chicago Public Schools and not just in the area of MICAH but also in areas worked with communicable disease, behavioral health, and immunizations. The goal is to get a foundational understanding of where we are now and what are the necessary measures to increase outcomes. The department is also looking for better ways to connect schools with the health resources we offer, i.e. dental, vision, and mental health, and STD services.

- Family Connects program is a nurse home visit that occurs a few weeks after a baby is born to check the health of mom and baby. We just released an RFP for Regional Community Alignment boards. RFP was released on the 6th and there was pre solicitation conference on the 17th. The deadline for questions is May 20th and the final deadline for submission is June 6th. One of the goals is to serve people and to work with community leaders in each region of the City.
- The Commissioner will be doing a press conference with Illinois Department of Health Services and SUPER (Substance Use Prevention and Recovery). We are starting a Medication Assistance Recovery (MAR Hotline). This is for people who have opioid use disorder. The City has a lot of big increase in opioid overdoses.
- Commissioner commented on the protestors who attended the meeting regarding slaughter houses in Chicago. The department has engaged with the group to address their concerns. The department of health has policies on the books that ensures the safety of food. In the past when problems have been found, fines etc. and other measures have been implemented. The group puts in complaints on a regular basis about the slaughter houses. As a result the department does send inspectors out frequently and are able to do so because we have both standard and complaint based inspections. One of the concerns of the group is about bird flu. However, the department does not see a risk for bird flu. The protest group has asked that the City disinvest from any business that supports meat. Additionally, the group has requested that CDPH tell Chicagoans to not eat meat. They want the department to shut down facilities that there is no desire to shut down. There are people in the City that need to have certain animals killed in a certain way in order to eat them. The group was asked to calm down and to please use the public comment period for all comments.
- Dr. Arwady announced the new Board president will be Dr. Janet Lin and that Oscar Zambrano will be joining as a new member. Dr. Davis and Debra Wesley were both reappointed.

Board Member Comments & Questions:

- **Joel Johnson** – As it relates to the MAR hotline, was there any type of RFP to gain other providers to support that work? As for drug adulteress, to what extend is CDPH looking at using educational opportunities not only for the community but for healthcare professionals?

V. Board President’s Comments

- Dr. Lopez welcomed a student from the University of Michigan of Ann Arbor majoring in Health Services Administration. The Chicago Board of Health is an advisory Board. The purpose of the Board is to provide input on many of the topics heard at the meeting today. The Board draws upon experiences and not just those provided based upon our credentials. The diversity by skill, race, and community. The experience allow us to view things with multiple perspectives.

VI. Presentation

Delegate Agency Contracting and Payment Process Overview

Mary Emanuel, Deputy Commissioner, CDPH

Delegate Agency Contract Enhancements: Increasing Productivity, Diversity and Inclusion.

Latoya Vaughn, Deputy Budget Director, Office of Budget and Management, CDPH

Grants and Project Accounting Division Voucher Audit Tracking System

Corey Harris, Director of Accounting, Department of Finance, CDPH

The Finance and Accounting department provided updates regarding various updates to the Delegate Agency Contracting and Vouchering process. The changes are being made to streamline processes, eliminate duplicative efforts, and improved overall workflow productivity and efficiency. Some improvements are tentatively scheduled to take place by year end.

Board Member Comments & Questions:

- **Dr. Rothschild** – Is part of the system fix a way to identify incorrect invoices when they are submitted? How much time is spent in every step? How long do invoices currently sit in today and how long do we think it should be?
- **Joel Johnson** – Commented that he appreciated the City taking the high road as the City is not always to blame for delays and other contracting issues.
- **Dr. Lin** – Commented that after seeing all three presentations, there seems to be a lot of overlap and opportunity to consolidate. For the sake of next steps, what is the timeline? What is the reality? What are the smart goals and objectives?

VII. Public Comments

One of the delegate agencies who were experiencing contract and payment challenges commented that they appreciated the response and resolve to their issue.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business for this meeting.

IX. Old Business

There was no old business for this meeting.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10: am by Dr. Carolyn C. Lopez.