

**Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health
Wednesday, July 19
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
DePaul Center
333 S. State Street, 2nd Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)**

I. Roll Call

Quorum was established based upon the following:

Present In-Person: Janet Lin, MD, MPH, MBA
Óscar Iván Zambrano, MPH, MBA, CDM
Matthew M. Davis, MD, MAPP
Debra Wesley, MSW
Rosa Martínez Colón, MS
Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN
Steven Rothschild, MD

Absent: Joel Johnson, MEd
Horace E. Smith, MD

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

II. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00am by Janet Lin, M.D. President.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The Board voted and approved the June minutes.

IV. Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Arwady provided the following department-wide updates:

- **Budget Engagement Sessions have kicked off for the City**
 - This is a critical time for the budget for our health department
 - Background: Only about 6% of funding comes from corporate dollars and CDPH is looking for improvement in this area
 - The department is putting together a list of specific asks- an update will be given regarding what that list entails
 - The department is lifting the following highlights:
 - The need to continue a lot of the work that started during COVID, interventions and initiatives
 - Family Connects Chicago: in-home nurse visiting program for Chicago families with newborns
 - Behavioral health work: additional investments into not only mental health, but also behavioral health with focus to grow clinical and nonclinical services; homeless shelters, crisis management, substance use disorder, etc.

**Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health
Wednesday, July 19
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
DePaul Center
333 S. State Street, 2nd Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)**

- City Council will be voting for hotel housing- the proposed plan went through the housing committee and now awaits approval by City Council
 - This plan is using American Rescue Plan funding
 - There will be an RFP announcement soon
- **Bureau of Behavioral Health**
 - CDPH continues to partner with Alderman offices to provide harm reduction resources such as Narcan and Fentanyl test kits.
 - CDPH is currently partnered with 7 ward offices to provide said resources.
 - Promotion of harm reduction at festivals, bars, and clubs this summer
 - CDPH continues to make harm reduction resources and education materials available to venue owners and operators citywide through a partnership with the Chicago Independent Venue League
 - Mental Health
 - CDPH has hired additional team members to support Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement (CARE) 911 Response Program
 - CDPH provides mental health services in 4 library locations and funds community partners to provide mental health services in an additional 3 library branches.
 - CDPH is partnering with DFSS to co-locate a trauma-informed center of care provider
 - CDPH is working with CPS and Lurie Children’s Hospital to develop coordinated and organized mental health resources for back to school in August
- **Bureau of Health Protection**
 - Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program was created 30 years ago!
 - The program supplies both public and private providers with federally purchased vaccines. There are 338 provider sites in the Chicago VFC program and over 600,000 vaccine doses were distributed in 2022.
 - HHS
 - Last week HHS released the COVID-19 Commercialization guide for planning purposes based on potential future action by FDA and CDC
 - HHS Bridge Program to ensure all Americans have continued access to COVID-19 vaccinations, regardless of insurance status, public-private partnerships to help maintain uninsured individuals’ access, and FQHCs will be key partners
 - CDPH received communication on June 27th that dedicated funding is no longer available
 - Approximately \$1 million, about 12% of core budget, will impact key IIS personnel and activities
 - Working on a plan to assess impact and leverage supplemental funds to offset some of the costs

**Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health
Wednesday, July 19
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
DePaul Center
333 S. State Street, 2nd Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)**

- Emergency Preparedness and Response (PHEP and HPP)
 - Developing Department Plan and Policy updates
 - Special events season is in full motion with Pride and Nascar completed, and National Homeland Security Conference, Lollapalooza, Bank of American Chicago Marathon, and local/state/federal planning for Democratic National Convention 2024 to come.
- **Bureau of Disease Control**
 - There has been an Mpox resurgence in Chicago and in other jurisdictions
 - CDPH has concluded the poliovirus 4-month wastewater monitoring
 - All samples collected were negative for poliovirus and no triggers for a public health action
 - Continued investments in this type of public health monitoring allows us to quickly react to emerging needs and public health concerns
 - Locally acquired Malaria cases (due to Plasmodium vivax) have been confirmed in Florida and Texas over the last two months
 - These are the first cases of Malaria in the US in the last two decades
 - There have been no cases in Chicago
 - Staff from across the department attended and presented CDPH work at the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist (CSTE) Annual Conference
 - Still waiting on updates regarding approval of ELC COVID-19 funds extensions
 - Continuing to highlight the importance of sustained flexible core funds for response to urgent public health threats
 - CDPH's new Deputy Commissioner-Chief Racial Equity Officer, Brittany Williams, has joined
- **Bureau of Community Health Strategy**
 - CDPH and our community health partners held the first of a series of community engagement sessions on the citywide Cumulative Impact Assessment
 - The Cumulative Impact Assessment examines how environmental, health, and social stressors vary across Chicago to inform policy changes
 - For more information- [Chicago.gov/cumulativeimpact](https://chicago.gov/cumulativeimpact)

Board Member Comments and Questions:

- **Dr. Matthew Davis:** We knew coming into this year that the Mpox vaccine would have issues with uptake and efficacy. Do you foresee a recommendation for a booster?
 - **Dr. Allison Arwady:** No, not at this point. There is more analysis that needs to be done, not enough data. Smallpox is one vaccine so the assumption is Mpox vaccination would be one as well.

**Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health
Wednesday, July 19
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
DePaul Center
333 S. State Street, 2nd Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)**

- **Dr. Steven Rothschild:** Do you anticipate wastewater surveillance becoming part of our normal testing infrastructure? Did we receive funding to keep up with this?
 - **Dr. Allison Arwady:** Yes, we are always looking to refine methods and/or add different methods for surveilling diseases. We are partially able to do this work with the help of many partners, but mainly because we built up laboratory infrastructure. We have not received any city funding and have not had a need yet to gain more dollars to expand; however, we are aware, due to COVID, that we will need funding for flexibility.
- **Dr. Janet Lin:** Is there any anticipation for combined flu and covid shots?
 - **Dr. Allison Arwady:** No, not this year at least.
- **Dr. Janet Lin:** Every month we hear about the important work the Public Health Department is doing, but we keep learning that the sustainability is the biggest hurdle. We would love to build up the board and our voices to help with the budget.

V. Board President’s Comments:

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

VI. Presentations:

Department:

Chicago Department of Public Health

Title:

The Hospital Preparedness Program and the Chicago Healthcare Coalition

Speakers:

Elisabeth K Weber, MA RN; Projects Administrator, HPP

Molly Gabaldo, DNP RN; Projects Manager, HPP

Board Member Comments and Questions:

- **Dr. Steven Rothschild:** There has been a lot of money dedicated to bioterrorism which created a good infrastructure for COVID. However, looking ahead, air quality issues as well as heat across northern hemisphere are becoming worrisome. What are our preparedness efforts surrounding *heat*?
 - **Dr. Allison Arwady:** There are two funding streams in preparedness
 - 1) Hospitals and Healthcare
 - 2) PH Emergency PreparednessWithin the PH Emergency Preparedness funding stream, our team is working on many interventions including a media campaign for extreme heat and cold. This work grew in funding after bioterrorism and terrorism in general, but we did not start with much. We at CDPH continue to think of prevention and COVID was one of the first times that other people’s attention towards prevention was caught as well. The City will continue to

**Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health
Wednesday, July 19
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
DePaul Center
333 S. State Street, 2nd Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)**

lift their hazard plans, and temperature issues will be a part of those. We must focus on collaboration, communication and lessening misinformation when doing so.

- **Chris Shields, CDPH Assistant Commissioner, Emergency Preparedness:** To add, COVID has shown us that we are prepared for many things and must focus on sustainability moving forward.
- **Debra Wesley:** Flooding has happened more frequently in our communities; therefore, making us worried about mold. Any thoughts about how to provide information to community members who have been severely impacted by the flooding?
 - **Dr. Allison Arwady:** Here in Chicago, we do not have the black mold that causes very dangerous and threatening issues, which is a plus. However, that doesn't mean the mold we have isn't bad. We do not have resources to support more than dissemination of educational materials surrounding flooding and what to do when it happens. Extreme weather is a topic that the City has been working on- with emerging issues, we as a City must make sure we are covered funding-wise for anything that may arise.
- **Dr. Janet Lin:** Preparedness is out of sight, out of mind usually. Need to start thinking about preparedness without a crisis to jumpstart it.

VII. Public Comments

There was one written public comment from Judy King that was read by Dr. Lin. The comment asked for an updated map of coverage areas for state funded mobile crisis and call center agencies be shared, if possible. The comment also referenced the CARE dashboard and asked CDPH to share specific information regarding the data tracked on said dashboard.

VIII. Standing Business

- **Finance Updates**
 - CDPH has awarded 255 contracts, 231 have been completed. Most outstanding contracts were awarded July 1st

IX. New Business

Regarding the public comment referring to the overlap of the City Council meetings and the Board of Health meetings; changing the Board of Health meeting date each month was discussed.

Discussion regarding a direct statement to City Council as a board in support of the request.

**Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health
Wednesday, July 19
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
DePaul Center
333 S. State Street, 2nd Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)**

X. Old Business

Óscar Iván Zambrano: Discussion and presentations around budget and where it comes from. Since we are learning and hearing so much about it, should the Board of Health have a direct statement to City Council as a board that supports the request from CDPH?

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30am by Dr. Janet Lin.