

**Minutes of the Chicago Board of Health**  
**Tuesday, June 10, 2025**  
**9:00 AM – 10:30 AM**  
**Washington Building**  
**111 W. Washington St., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor (Conference Room 1212)**

**Roll Call 9:02 am**

**Present In-Person:**

Aida Giachello, PhD  
Chinyere Okwu, MPH  
Hong Liu, PhD, MA  
Kathryn Bocanegra, PhD, LCSW  
Stephanie Willding, MPA  
Travis Gayles, MD, PhD, MPH

**On-line**

Jerrard Walker, RN LCSW

**Absent:** None

**For the Department present:** Olusimbo Ige, Md, MS, MPH., Commissioner  
Chicago Department of Public Health

**I. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am on June 10, 2025.

**II. Board Opening Remarks**

Bishop Horace Smith, MD, President

Welcomed everyone and shared the history of the board of health and the roles of board members.

**III. Board Introductions**

The Board of Health members introduced themselves.

**IV. Introduction to CDPH**

Olusimbo Ige, MD, MS, MPH, Commissioner

Welcomed the new Board of Health members and provided 2024 successes including reduction in drug overdose and timely response and control of measles outbreak in a new arrivals shelter. The success stories exemplify CDPH's community centered approach to reducing preventable deaths.

Commissioner Ige provided an overview of her role, authority and legislative authority within the Board of Health. Dr. Ige explained that the budget office is requesting the department identify cost savings opportunities and therefore looks forward to working with the Board of Health members to discuss ideas. Commissioner Ige provided a summary of the department's role and services. She shared the department is in the process of accreditation along with concerns about upcoming federal budget cuts.

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CDPH Deputies: Programs & Operations. Deputies present introduced themselves:

Kate McMahon – Director of Policy

Fikirte Wagaw – First Deputy Commissioner

Maribel Chavez Torres – Managing Deputy Commissioner

Mary Emmanuel – Deputy Commissioner Contracts, Finance and Grants

Jennifer Vidis – Deputy Commissioner Maternal, Infant, Child and Adolescent Health

Brittany Williams – Deputy Commissioner Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access (IDEA)

Aparna Priyadarshi – Deputy Commissioner Public Health Informatics and IT

Snigdha Acharya – General Counsel

Janna Kerins (for Stephanie Black, MD)- Medical Director

**V. Overview of Robert's Rules**

Kate McMahon, Director of Policy and provided an overview of the Rules of Order, Ethics and Open Meetings Act.

**VI. Standing Business**

Introduction of new BOH Charter by Bishop Horace Smith, MD., President and asked BOH members for comments or questions.

- Kathryn Bocanegra asked how the deputy mayor is involved with BOH? Dr. Smith mentioned the interaction is through Commissioner Ige. Commissioner Ige mentioned interaction is through reporting and writing memos.
- Hong Liu had a question on the term length for board members and Dr. Smith provided clarification.
- Jerrard Walker and Aida Giachello suggested meeting monthly. Stephanie Willding suggested meeting *at least* bi-monthly. Dr. Smith suggested obtaining monthly updates and having bi-monthly BOH meetings.
- Stephanie Willding asked if there are any significant shifts from the past charter to the new charter? Commissioner Ige explained the major charter changes are the frequency of the meetings and the connection with the mayor's office through an annual report.
- Commissioner Ige suggested sending members monthly Commissioner updates.
- Aida Giachello asked what is the role of the BOH president? Dr. Smith provided an overview of his role and clarified he will not have an office at CDPH.
- Aida asked about the current mass deportation and CDPH's role. Commissioner Ige explained the Mayor's Office of Migrants and Refugee Rights is responding to the mass deportations, but CDPH is working on the change of health coverage and identifying healthcare providers to assist immigrants.
- Hong Liu raised concern on the current budget and federal budget cuts to health care services. Dr. Smith suggested this should be a topic of discussion for next BOH meetings.

***Vote***

Dr. Smith suggested modifying language in charter to hold BOH meetings at least bi-monthly with written updates provided on the months without a meeting. Called a vote to

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approve this charter.

BOH members voted and unanimously agreed (8-yay, 0-nay)

**VII. Public Comments – None**

**VIII. Adjourn at 10:32 am**