

Chicago Board of Health  
Meeting Summary October 21, 2015  
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President  
Melanie Dreher, RN, PhD.  
Victor M. Gonzalez  
Horace E. Smith, M.D.  
Joseph B. Starshak

Board Members Absent

Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.  
Carl C. Bell, M.D.  
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.  
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.

For the Department

Jaime Dirksen, Deputy Commissioner

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Dr. Lopez, Board President.

**Approval of Minutes:** The August and September 2015 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Commissioner's Update:** Jaime Dircksen reported that On October 1, Commissioner Morita and other CDPH leaders answered City Council members' questions about our budget and in following areas:

*Breast Health Services for Uninsured Women.* CDPH is launching a new partnership with Cook County to expand breast health services for uninsured women. The investment will allow for 5,000 uninsured women to get mammograms free-of-charge—more than double the number of women who currently receive services. Through the new partnership, CDPH will fund 8 locations where women can receive free mammograms—the three new County sites, in addition to continuing service at Mercy Hospital and Health Center's four sites and Roseland Community Hospital. As part of the transition, the breast health clinic at our Englewood location will close.

*HIV Primary Care Proposal.* The budget also includes a proposal to transition HIV Primary Care services to community partners. This new plan would allow us to provide services to 2,000 residents—4 times more than the number receiving services at our Uptown and Englewood clinics. Under this proposal, we would issue an RFP for delegate agencies to provide these services to our residents and eliminate our direct services next Spring.

*HIV Training.* In order to meet budget cuts necessary for the City's long term sustainability, CDPH will move nearly \$1.1M of HIV prevention delegate agency funding from the corporate budget to our HIV prevention grant. Although we are able to maintain level funding for our HIV delegates so that service provisions may continue, we simply cannot afford \$1.1M of new expenses on the grant. As such, we will eliminate our HIV/AIDS Training Unit effective January 1, 2016. These changes unfortunately mean some members of our team will be leaving CDPH. However, this process was guided by the value of ensuring that as many residents as possible had access to programs and services that will promote their health and wellbeing.

*E-cigarette Tax.* Jesse Lava will talk about the new e-cigarette tax in his policy update. The October 1<sup>st</sup> hearing lasted more than three hours. Aldermen had many questions on the proposed changes, and they also offered praise to CDPH, including for the immunization team, the food protection team, the meningitis outbreak response, PlayStreets, and the Recovery Walk, just to name a few. Commissioner Morita also answered questions on Tuesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at a Finance Committee hearing about revenue increases. The City Council will vote on the final budget on October 28.

Ms. Dircksen also provided the following updates:

CDPH partnered with the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) to expand and update the CTA's "If It's Unwanted, It's Harassment" public service campaign. The goal is to promote awareness that CTA will not tolerate harassment on and to provide helpful information to customers who believe

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they are the victims of harassment.

CDPH launched its annual awareness campaign to encourage residents to get their yearly flu shot. The campaign features transit, broadcast and digital ads in English and Spanish that direct Chicagoans to locations where they can conveniently get a vaccine at no cost to the individual. This year, for the first time ever, all 50 Aldermen are hosting influenza vaccine clinics. CDPH also offers Fast Track Immunization Clinics and a Flu Clinic Finder app.

CDPH has finalized the Healthy Chicago telephone survey report, providing a detailed analysis of health status and behavior of Chicago residents. This is the first time CDPH has conducted a survey of this magnitude and the results have been integral in our Healthy Chicago 2.0 planning process. The plan is to publish the report in early November, followed by a roundtable discussion with leading epidemiologists and researchers from across the City on how to better leverage these data. Additionally, we will begin training surveyors next week in order to launch the second iteration of the annual survey.

The Children's Dental Health Project (CDHP) will convene a national Sealant Work Group (SWG) this fall to offer actionable recommendations for strengthening school sealant programs' ability to serve high-risk children. CDPH will serve on the work group.

U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy was the special guest at CDPH's Mental Health Advisory Group meeting last month. Dr. Murthy shared his insights improving mental health services across the country including expanding preventative programs to children and working to de-stigmatize mental health.

Lastly, Ms. Dirksen welcomed aboard three new employees:

Ivonne Sambolin is CDPH's new Director of Community Engagement, Planning and Development. Ivonne comes from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), where she worked with the Maternal and Child Health program spearheading the needs assessment among other special projects under the Office of Women's Health and Family Services.

Jennifer Caruso is CDPH's new STI/HIV Partner Services and Disease Control Program Director. Jennifer spent nearly 10 years managing a community-based victim service program and has worked on the front lines of service with male and female survivors at the Cook County Domestic Violence Courthouse.

Robynn Cheng Leidig started at CDPH in the Hospital Preparedness Program as a CDC Temporary Epidemiology Field Assignee (TEFA). She most recently was a CDC Public Health Prevention Service (PHPS) Fellow, assigned to the IDPH, Division of Patient Safety and Quality, in the Healthcare Associated Infections program.

**Comments by the Board President:** Dr. Lopez welcomed all the students and a member of the public. Dr. Lopez provided an overview of the board's history and explained the board's advisory role in matters of infectious disease and health issues affecting public health.

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**Policy Update:** Jesse Lava provided the following policy updates:

The City Council's Finance Committee approved Mayor Emanuel's proposed e-cigarette tax yesterday. If passed by the full City Council, Chicago will be the first big city in the country to enact such a tax. This effort will help us stay ahead of the industry's efforts to target youth. It will also raise revenue to create five new school-based health centers over the next four years. The tax would be \$0.25/mL of e-liquid plus \$1.25/container.

Mayor Emanuel introduced an ordinance in City Council last month to let CDPH require low-risk food establishments, largely convenience stores selling pre-packaged food, to submit self-inspection reports every two years. This measure follows a successful pilot program working in a collaborative, proactive way with food establishments to identify safety issues. The ordinance will help CDPH continue to prioritize its own inspection resources on high-risk establishments like restaurants. It will also help CDPH align with state inspection requirements.

Mayor Emanuel and Alderman Burke introduced a resolution calling on the Food and Drug Administration to reverse its recent decision approving OxyContin for pediatric patients ages 11-16. Dr. Morita, the Mayor, and DuPage County officials have also co-signed and submitted a letter to the FDA to urge this action. The United States is in the midst of an opioid epidemic that has led to skyrocketing addiction, overdoses and fatalities. We believe expanded use of dangerous opioids such as OxyContin among youth could make the epidemic worse.

A City Council resolution from Alderman Burke has established a task force jointly with Cook County on heroin, with a focus on reducing overdoses, fighting distribution, and ensuring treatment. This task force was announced in September and is especially timely given that more than 70 people on Chicago's West Side overdosed on a batch of heroin during the first two days of October. CDPH will be part of the task force.

**Presentation: Chicago's Violence Prevention Portfolio,** Marlita White, Director, of The Office of Violence Prevention and Behavioral Health (OVPBH) provided an overview of the program's goal in the prevention and reduction of violence, injury, and substance abuse in Chicago through effective programming, strategic partnerships and advocacy, and coordinated mobilization of providers and residents.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business: None**

**Public Comment:** A University of Chicago student commented on the struggles a person with a criminal record has when searching for employment and the lack of finding expungement programs.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

**Next Board Meeting: November 18, 2015, 9:00 a.m.**