

Chicago Board of Health  
Meeting Summary December 16, 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  
Steven K. Rothschild, 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.  
Horace E. Smith, M.D.

For the Department

Julie Morita, M.D., 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 November 2015 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Commissioner's Update:** Commissioner Morita reported that on December 1<sup>st</sup> the following HIV/AIDS program events took place:

On World AIDS Day, CDPH launched the "Chicago Wears Condoms" campaign to promote condom use among youth. The campaign was developed in collaboration with students from Mikva Challenge and Serve Marketing who wanted to address sexual health and raise awareness among teens. The image created could be found near CDPH's front door. CDPH Staff was joined by Mikva students and community volunteers to distribute condoms at 5 CTA train stations and 6 city colleges. Students from the Illinois Institute of Art also designed dresses made from condoms to support the campaign launch.

CDPH issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) seeking applications from community based partners to potentially provide outpatient/ambulatory care and early intervention services to residents living with HIV/AIDS. This RFP is part of an earlier proposal to expand HIV/AIDS services to 2,000 Chicago residents. As part of the RFP, we are seeking providers to operate CDPH clinics located in Uptown and Englewood as well as expand services to other neighborhoods where there is an ongoing need for additional care. Details are available on the CDPH website.

The recently released CDPH 2015 HIV/STI Surveillance Report indicated that the number of new HIV diagnoses in Chicago continues to decline for the 13th year in a row. The number of new HIV infection diagnoses fell to 973 in 2014, down 48% from 2001.

Next, Commissioner Morita reported that on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Office of Violence Prevention and Behavioral Health hosted four students from Dunbar Vocational Academy for the 2015 Chicago Public Schools Job Shadow Day. Job Shadow Day at CDPH provided the Bronzeville students with an overview of a variety of health-related career opportunities, and positive mentoring from CDPH staff. The students participated in an office-wide activity that allowed them to interview staff members from various divisions.

Commissioner Morita also reported the following Preventive Health events:

CDPH once again teamed up with health departments and health care organizations across Illinois to encourage residents to get a flu shot during Vaccinate Illinois Week (VIW), which was December 6-12. VIW grew out of Vaccinate Chicago week, which was first launched by CDPH in 2012.

CDPH and Advocate Heart Institute have completed its pilot of the South Asian Healthy Eating Benefits (SAHEB) healthy eating initiative to reduce sodium and trans-fat in menu items at four prominent Chicago South Asian restaurants. Advocate Heart Institute and the Chicago Department of Public Health worked with four Chicago restaurants that serve South Asian cuisine. South Asians are at higher risk of heart disease than the general population. Chefs received training from a dietitian on ways to reduce sodium in popular menu items without sacrificing flavor. The

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restaurants — Curry Bowl, Mysore Woodlands, Gaylord Fine Indian Cuisine and Viceroy of India — on average, have reduced the sodium content in their food by nearly 23 percent. The results were recently reported by the Associated Press and NBC 5.

Chicago is one of 20 communities participating in President Obama's Healthy Community Challenge to reduce the population of uninsured during the current open enrollment period— November 1 through January 31. Chicago's efforts are coordinated through CDPH's Healthy Chicago initiative, in close collaboration with great Federal, State, City, and community partners. The White House just advised that Chicago is currently ranked #4 – out of 20 Healthy Community Challenge participant cities – through the first 5 weeks of Open Enrollment.

Commissioner Morita attended a roundtable discussion coordinated by the Institute for Healthcare Improvement with the US Surgeon General, Vivek Murthy on December 7<sup>th</sup>. IHI is interested in developing a comprehensive strategy for addressing the ongoing opioid epidemic and Dr. Murthy is interested in addressing healthcare provider education to improve prescribing practices for opioids and in increasing public awareness about the problem. She was able to share some of Chicago's recent work and future plans to address this problem and will continue to seek future opportunities with IHI and the Surgeon

Lastly, Commissioner Morita reported that CDPH's new interdisciplinary workgroup is here! The Cultural Leadership Team (CLT) was formed to assure that every member of the CDPH workforce is safe, respected and valued so that they may contribute fully to the Department's mission and provide culturally competent services to Chicago residents. They achieve this through ongoing dialogue, training of colleagues, informing policies and promoting best practices. This year, their three main focus areas are communication, policy and training. The CLT is comprised of 15 members and they have been meeting on a monthly basis since August 2015.

**Comments by the Board President:** Dr. Lopez wished everyone happy holidays and mentioned that this is a time of reflection, of the successes and impacts we have made. Not to mention, the things that need to be accomplished that motivate us to work on other good things. Dr. Lopez also welcomed a student and 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.

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

Mayor Emanuel introduced an ordinance to improve and clarify Chicago's laws regulating facilities that engage in tattooing, tanning, or body art. The improvements would bring more predictability for businesses while ensuring CDPH can safeguard public health. The ordinance would: 1) lower Chicago's minimum tattoo age from 21 to 18, matching the age prescribed by Illinois state government, 2) clarify that minors cannot use indoor tanning facilities, which can cause melanoma, and 3) allow the Board of Health to issue rules clarifying the fines for specific violations at such facilities.

The Chicago City Council passed a CDPH ordinance to improve oversight of contractors removing asbestos from buildings. The measure will strengthen the requirement that contractors inform CDPH whenever demolitions and asbestos removal work will take place, helping ensure our

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inspectors can be onsite to supervise the process and safeguard public health. In addition, the ordinance will improve the efficiency of our asbestos program by requiring contractors to submit notifications online.

The commissioners of CDPH and the Chicago Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection (BACP) have jointly issued updated rules on the ban on flavored tobacco sales within 500 feet of schools. The changes: 1) clarify the definition of a school, 2) establish an administrative hearing process so retailers have a formal path for objecting if they believe they are not within 500 feet of a school, and 3) provide that CDPH's list of flavored tobacco products no longer has to be exhaustive, so if inspectors find a store selling a different flavored tobacco product, the store may still be cited. CDPH will continue to maintain a non-exclusive list and answer retailers who ask ahead of time whether a given product is flavored.

**Presentation: Healthy Chicago 2.0**, Jaime Dirksen, Managing Deputy Commissioner provided and overview of Healthy Chicago 2.0 goals, strategies and current status that CDPH and public health stakeholders will implement to improve the health of Chicago residents and communities.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business: None**

**Public Comment: None**

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

**Next Board Meeting: January 20, 2016, 9:00 a.m.**