

Chicago Board of Health
Meeting Summary December 17, 2014
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street

Roll Call

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President
Melanie Dreher, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N
Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.
Victor M. Gonzalez
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.
Horace E. Smith, M.D.
Joseph B. Starshak

Board Members Absent

Carl C. Bell, M.D.

For the Department

Julie Morita, M.D., Acting Commissioner

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Dr. Lopez, Board President.

Approval of Minutes: The October 2015 minutes were unanimously approved.

Comments by the Board President: Dr. Lopez welcomed all to the Board meeting and she extended a special welcome to Dr. Julie Morita, as the Chicago Department of Public Health's (CDPH) new Acting Commissioner. Dr. Lopez noted that the Board is looking forward and committed to assisting her as she transitions into her new CDPH role.

Update from Commissioner: Dr. Morita expressed that she is excited for the opportunity to serve as Chicago's Public Health Commissioner and she looks forward to working with the Board. She invited the Board to contact her with any recommendations. Dr. Lopez noted that the Board will submit a Letter of Support on behalf of Dr. Morita's appointment and an expressed an interest in testifying at the Council hearing as well.

Mr. Starshak commented that there has not been a Board Retreat for many years and suggested that the time may be appropriate for a Board retreat to be planned once again. Dr. Morita agreed that with the next iteration of *Healthy Chicago* to be released shortly, a Board retreat would indeed be very timely. Dr. Rothschild noted he is looking forward to the next *Healthy Chicago* report and he inquired the role and use of "big" data in the CDPH's future planning efforts. He also inquired if the Department is monitoring the implementation of health reform, especially mental health.

Dr. Morita concluded her report with the following updates: (1) In coordination with 2014's World Aids Day, CDPH released its 2014 HIV/STI Surveillance Report. The report notes the number of new HIV infection diagnoses has been declining steadily for the past 13 years in Chicago. In addition to the release of the report, as part of World AIDS Day events, CDPH staff and volunteers distributed free condoms at select CTA stations throughout the City. (2) Flu started early this year and Chicago's hospitals have been overwhelmed with the number of patients presenting for treatment. CDPH continues to publicize good flu prevention, including the importance of good hand washing and that it is not too late to get immunized. She also reported there is no shortage of Tamiflu. (3) The Mayor announced CDPH and Presence Health have entered into a Wellness Partnership. The Wellness Partnership will run a pilot phase, focusing on preventative health initiatives around the earliest stages of life, specifically supporting new parents in some of Chicago's most underserved communities to help improve the health of their babies. Lessons from the pilot phase will be used as the Partnership works to identify and fund other initiatives and programs. (4) Lastly, the transmission of ebola has been slowing down and therefore, current O'hare operations are being scaled back slightly.

Presentation: Innovations in Public Health Technology and Practice – Dr. Jay Bhatt, Managing Deputy Commissioner, and Raed Mansour provided an overview of the Department's current data innovation portfolio and its utilization of predictive analytics to identify Chicago's health needs and target resources, including staffing, to more effectively improve the health of Chicagoans. Dr. Bhatt and Mr. Mansour provided examples of CDPH's current predictive analytics projects and plans for future expansion.

Policy Update: Mr. Kendall Stagg provided the following updates: (1) Federal - Dr. Vivek H. Murthy, the President's nominee for the U.S. Surgeon General recently received Congressional approval. (2) State – the Illinois General Assembly's Veto Session culminated last week without any major health decisions being determined, such as approval of the state's Exchange under the Affordable Care Act. An extension of the state's current income tax was also not heard and therefore, health care resources currently provided by the state are likely to be substantially decreased in 2015. (3) City – The Department had the following items up for consideration in City Council last week: (a) *Contract authority expansion*: this ordinance will

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allow CDPH to form contracts to join health provider networks, whereby CDPH may be reimbursed for its services, and (2) *Self-inspections*: an ordinance that will extend CDPH's self-inspection pilot program for certain food establishments for another year.

Old Business: None.

New Business: Kendall Stagg reminded the Board of Health that they received and agreed to the Board's Meeting Calendar for 2015.

Public Comment: Ms. Badonna Reingold inquired about the status of the Department's mental health operations.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

Next Board Meeting: January 21, 2015, 9:00 a.m.