

Chicago Board of Health  
Meeting Summary April 15, 2015  
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  
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.  
Adele Joy Cobs, M.D.

For the Department

Julie Morita, M.D., Commissioner

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Dr. Lopez, Board President.

**Approval of Minutes:** The March 2015 minutes were unanimously approved as submitted.

**Commissioner's Update:** Dr. Morita shared that her confirmation hearing with the City Council's Committee on Health & Environmental Protection was yesterday. The committee's members unanimously recommended Dr. Morita for confirmation as Commissioner of CDPH. Her full confirmation is anticipated at today's City Council meeting.

Dr. Morita reported that Healthy Chicago 2.0 Community Conversations are being held this week. The Conversations are taking place in the community to obtain additional community engagement and feedback on the development of the City's priority issues. At the culmination of these Conversations, we will then form Action Committees to guide our work to reduce health inequities in Chicago. Committee membership will be diverse and representative of the community and will consist of residents, partner organizations, and CDPH staff. To ensure CDPH staff members are informed and engaged with Healthy Chicago 2.0, we have held four CDPH staff informational sessions. The deadline to release Healthy Chicago 2.0 is scheduled for August, 2015.

Dr. Morita next spoke of the Department's new initiatives to partner with hospitals to collaborate with hospitals to make a greater positive impact regarding their community benefit work, which under the Affordable Care Act is now required to be reported to the IRS. We are leading two new efforts with area hospitals currently:

1. CDPH recently convened a coalition of area hospitals and health systems including Advocate and Presence to launch one of the country's largest collaborative Community Health Needs Assessments, a two-year process that will engage a diverse set of stakeholders and collect data rigorously to improve our understanding of the health issues facing residents and design creative solutions to address them.
2. Next week, CDPH will launch the Healthy Chicago Hospital Collaborative with our friends at Health and Disability Advocates. The focus of this group is three-fold: promote shared learning between the hospitals, coordinate interventions to address shared priorities and enhance data visibility among the members.

Dr. Morita reported next that Childhood Exposure to Violence (CEV) Prevention Week will be April 20-24 Chicago Safe Start and the CDPH Office of Violence Prevention will host the Community Spirit Awards on Monday, April 20 to honor those who work to prevent childhood exposure to violence. There will be activities throughout the week on the theme of "Protecting every child, every day."

Dr. Morita next reported that the Chicago Community Oral Health Forum (CCOHF) has completed the "Healthy Smile, Healthy Growth" report, an assessment of the oral health and overweight or obese status of third-grade children in Illinois. CDPH's dental program, including our team member Mary Pat Burgess, was acknowledged when the report was announced. Dr. Evans also attended the Forum.

Dr. Morita next reported that the California Department of Public Health has adopted CDPH's brochures on congenital syphilis in English and Spanish for use statewide, and the New Orleans Department of Public Health will be using CDPH's "no smoking" signage, which can be seen at food establishments around the city.

Lastly, Dr. Morita announced that CDPH has executed about half of its HIV prevention contracts and about a quarter of its AIDS housing grants are nearing execution. CDPH also recently launched an ad campaign to

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further increase the proportion of people living with HIV who are fully engaged in care and to raise awareness about the benefits of HIV treatment. The campaign includes online, print, and transit ads, as well as educational materials for doctors' offices.

**Comments by the Board President:** Dr. Lopez stated that it is remarkable to observe how various health partners are able to swiftly mobilize when they identify a need to protect the public. This observation was recently noted when she received a communication from the IL Academy of Family Physicians of the Quitline's urgent need for support, as the letter did not begin until the middle of the page due to all supporting logos that preceded the content. She noted that it is incumbent upon the Board to participate and remain engaged in these larger public health issues and to provide oral and written comments as appropriate. She lastly noted that with the recent loss of funding support for the Tobacco Quite Line, it will certainly impede the smoking cessation efforts of the Department.

**Policy Update:** Jesse Lava reported that SB1800 passed unanimously out of the Senate's Committee on Public Health. It's a bill introduced by Illinois Sen. Heather Steans to empower CDPH to require low-risk food establishments to submit self-inspection reports.

Mr. Lava reported CDPH has given support to several state bills including ones that would restrict religious exemptions for child immunizations, allow more ex-offenders to work in the healthcare field after a set amount of time has passed, and an adjustment to confidentiality laws to ensure that sensitive health information remains private.

State: The Governor's administration has proposed \$1.47 billion in cuts to Medicaid funding. That issue is being discussed by others today.

City: City Council has proposed ordinances on issues including powdered alcohol, antibiotics in food, and the recycling facilities that accept catalytic converters. The Mayor will introduce an ordinance in City Council today authorizing CDPH to expand its school-based oral health program to non-CPS schools. This ordinance will allow CDPH to serve thousands more low-income Chicago students.

**Presentation: Protecting Medicaid in Illinois** – Nadeen Israel, Policy Director, EverThrive Illinois and John Peller, President and CEO, AIDS Foundation of Chicago provided an overview of the 2016 Proposed Medicaid budget cuts. Ms. Israel and Mr. Peeler's presentation included in depth details of the Illinois Medicaid and FY'16 Proposed Budget Cuts and the likely results of such cuts.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** *Proposed Resolution to Protect Medicaid Funding* - The Resolution was reviewed and several suggestions were advised. These revisions were completed and the Board approved and passed the Resolution as amended. Dr. Evans requested that the amended Resolution be emailed to each Board member. This was agreed upon.

**Public Comment:** Badonna Reingold, a member of the public, noted the state's budget for mental health services should not be cut further, as this will greatly impede patients for getting their medications.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

**Next Board Meeting: May 20, 2015, 9:00 a.m.**