

Chicago Board of Health  
Meeting Summary August 19, 2015  
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President  
Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.  
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.  
Victor M. Gonzalez  
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.  
Joseph B. Starshak

Board Members Absent

Melanie Dreher, RN, PhD.  
Carl C. Bell, M.D.  
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 9:05 a.m. by Dr. Lopez, Board President.

**Approval of Minutes:** The July 2015 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Commissioner's Update:** Dr. Morita reported that CDC announced a dramatic increase in the percentage of Chicago teens who have received the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. In 2014, coverage levels for Chicago females having received the first dose of the HPV vaccine increased to 78.1%, up from 57.6% in 2013. Coverage levels for the same group having received all three doses of the vaccine increased to 52.6%, up from 36.5% in 2013. The 2014 average for the United States was 60% for the first dose and 39.7% for all three doses. This dramatic increase was due, in no small part, to CDPH's and our partners' efforts, which included educational ad campaigns and provider education and support. We look forward to meeting our goal of 80% coverage levels.

Next, Dr. Morita reported CDPH has launched a public awareness campaign to encourage parents to get all recommended vaccines for their children before the start of the school year. As part of the campaign, CDPH will provide vaccines at no cost to the individual at clinics across the City. CDPH has also partnered with Smart Chicago Collaborative to re-launch a "Back to School Immunization" app to help parents find a convenient immunization event in their neighborhoods. Among this year's minimum health requirements for students in Illinois is the meningitis vaccine. One dose is required for students entering 6th grade and two doses are required for students entering 12th grade.

In addition, Dr. Morita reported the following:

- For the second year in a row, CDPH has teamed up with local advocacy groups to host "Nobody Quits Like Chicago: Smoking Cessation Awareness Week." It's going on this week, August 17-21, and is a Chicago-based observance to raise awareness of citywide smoking cessation resources. A full schedule of events for the week is available at [www.CityofChicago.org/TOBACCO](http://www.CityofChicago.org/TOBACCO) and #ChicagoQuits on social media networks.
- The results of CDPH's mosquito collection and testing indicated a need to spray this week in order to protect residents in several neighborhoods for potential exposure to mosquitoes that may carry West Nile Virus. Spraying is occurring today, August 19. The neighborhoods are on the West Side and include Dunning, Montclare, Belmont-Cragin, and Austin.
- CDPH's efforts to prevent meningococcal meningitis continue in spite of there being no new cases since July 4. CDPH has electronic billboards up on the city's highway system, is continuing social media efforts and has advertisements on digital media reminding gay and bisexual men to get vaccinated. In addition, CDPH holds a weekly conference call with partners to discuss collaboration and prevention efforts. As of August 17, nearly 14,000 doses of vaccines have been distributed to 77 partner organizations.
- New York City has experienced an outbreak of Legionnaire's disease resulting in emergency regulations being enacted on Monday. In Chicago, we receive reports of sporadic, isolated cases every year and one individual has died from Legionnaires' disease this summer. Nonetheless, Illinois cases have doubled over the past decade, so we will continue to monitor the situation closely.

Lastly, Dr. Morita reported the City of Chicago is poised to remove the exclusion of gender reassignment services from city health care benefits. The change will be implemented for all non-union employees, and the city is working with labor partners to also remove the exclusion for union members. The change, which will apply to current city employees and their dependents, will go into effect on October 1, 2015. Under the policy change, coverage of male-to-female or female-to-male surgical procedures would be standard for city employees covered by city health care plans and their dependents. The city is in the process of finalizing the specific criteria that must be met in order to receive coverage of these procedures and which

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specific procedures will be covered.

**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.

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

- CDPH sent a letters to all licensed Chicago physician reminding them of the best practices on prescribing opioids. The letter was mailed to over 11,000 practitioners within city limits, plus over 2000 physicians in CDPH's Health Alert Network.
- The Governor signed several health-related bills into law: HB2812, which helps protect the confidentiality of patients seeking sensitive health services, and SB1410, which promotes vaccinations by narrowing the religious exemption for school children.
- Members of the Chicago City Council introduced a range of ordinances and resolutions related to health, including a proposed tax on sugar-sweetened beverages and a new license that would allow vendors to sell food from wheeled pushcarts across the city.
- The City Council passed an ordinance last month to expand composting on urban farms and community gardens, along with a CDPH ordinance that ensures dry cleaners and auto body shops minimize the exposure of workers and customers to toxic chemicals.
- Mayor's Emanuel's transition team made a series of policy recommendations for the second term: 1) expand public engagement; 2) foster neighborhood economic growth; 3) move towards universal pre-K.

Lastly, Dr. Lopez commented on a recent article she read that children who currently smoke e-cigarettes will as a result smoke cigarettes and thereby, noting the importance of the Department and the Board for addressing this issue very early. Dr. Lopez asked for follow-up on the reporting from last month on the federal appropriations bill that proposed barring the FDA from conducting pre-market review of new tobacco products by saying that none of the funding can be used for any activity that involves a fee, and FDA charges an application fee for review of new tobacco products. Mr. Lava agreed to review and respond.

**Presentation: Healthy Chicago 2.0: Increasing HPV Vaccination Among Chicago's Adolescents: Strategies for an Urban Landscape,** Maribel Chavez-Torres, Program Director, Immunization Program provided the strategies used to increase HPV vaccination rates among adolescents.

**Old Business: None**

**New Business: None**

**Public Comment:** Journalism students from the graduate programs at Columbia and Northwestern College had questions related to the HPV vaccination presentation: the number of HPV vaccine dosage requirement; culture barriers impacts a parent's decision to vaccinate their children; specific gender advertising to increase vaccination rates, program's funding availability to continue advertising, the use of other social media to improve outreach, and the possibility of legislation passing a mandatory requirement for the vaccine. Lastly, a question was asked regarding CDPH's mental health plan. The Commissioner responded that CDPH is currently working on a plan as a part of the Healthy Chicago 2.0, which will be released in November of this year.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

**Next Board Meeting: September 16, 2015, 9:00 a.m.**