

Chicago Board of Health
Meeting Summary: August 20, 2014
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street

Roll Call

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

Carl C. Bell, M.D.
Horace E. Smith, M.D.
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.

For the Department

Kendall Stagg, J.D., Senior Advisor
Bechara Choucair, M.D., Commissioner

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the minutes was tabled, as a quorum was not present at the start of the meeting.

Commissioner's Report and Healthy Chicago Update: Kendall Stagg announced Commissioner Choucair will arrive late, as he was participating in a cancer policy roundtable with health policy staff from Senator Durbin's office and local health advocates. The roundtable was being hosted by the American Cancer Society.

In his absence, Mr. Stagg provided the Commissioner's implementation update for Healthy Chicago:

- **West Nile Virus**

Today and tomorrow, CDPH is continuing its efforts against West Nile Virus by spraying to kill adult mosquitoes in parts of the Northwest and Far Northwest Sides. This is the first spraying to occur in the City this season.

On Monday, the Illinois Department of Public Health announced the first human case of West Nile Virus in the state this year. The patient is a woman in her 70s who lives in the West Ridge community area. She is recovering at home.

As part of our ongoing response efforts, CDPH will continue to collect mosquitoes from traps located throughout the city and test these mosquitoes for West Nile Virus. When our mosquito traps indicate that the West Nile Virus may threaten human health in a community, we take decisive action.

- ***I Am An Outbreak Campaign and Smart Chicago App***

CDPH recently launched the *I AM AN OUTBREAK* campaign to remind parents to get all recommended vaccinations for their children before the beginning of the school year. In addition, CDPH partnered with Smart Chicago Collaborative to develop an immunization app. The app helps parents find a convenient immunization event in their neighborhood. At the events, vaccines are provided to children ages six months to 18 years free of charge.

- **Tobacco Control Initiatives**

This week, CDPH is partnering with more than two dozen advocacy organizations for the first ever Smoking Cessation Week in Chicago (August 18-22). CDPH and its partners are uniting under one shared belief: "Nobody Quits Like Chicago." It is the first time the City of Chicago has sponsored a week specific to smoking cessation that includes public education initiatives and events across the city. Public awareness campaigns and events

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are happening all across the city this week to help provide smokers with the resources they need to quit.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel issued an official proclamation commemorating August 18-22, 2014 as Smoking Cessation Awareness Week.

On August 7, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and CDPH announced that the adult smoking rate in Chicago hit an historic low. According to survey data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), only 17.7 percent of Chicago adults reported smoking in 2013 compared to 22.6 percent in 2011. This is the lowest rate ever recorded among Chicago adults by the BRFSS. This good news follows news announced earlier this summer about youth smoking rates hitting a record low.

Recognizing the efforts Chicago has made to reduce the rates of smoking, the American Lung Association honored Mayor Emanuel with its 2014 Impact Award this month. Northwestern is expected to honor the Mayor with a similar award at a tobacco cessation fundraiser on Thursday.

- **Foodborne Illness App**

Last week, the CDC published an article in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) about FoodBorne Chicago, which is the Department's social media app that monitors Twitter activity to detect foodborne illnesses.

Comments from Board President: President Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D welcomed several dozen students in the audience, including both college and high school students. Dr. Lopez stated that the Board of Health serves as an advisory body to the Mayor and the Commissioner of Health. Dr. Lopez invited the students to continue to attend the Board meetings to learn about public health and CDPH.

Approval of Minutes: With a quorum present, approval of the minutes was revisited. Dr. Evans pointed out a few minor typos. Minutes were approved as edited.

Informational Presentation - Mikva Challenge: Mikva youth leaders shared information about how they are lending their voices and expertise on public health campaigns, including anti-obesity and sexual health campaigns.

Informational Presentation - School-based health initiatives in CPS: Dr. Stephanie Whyte, CPS' Chief Health Officer, and Jaime Dircksen, Deputy Commissioner, gave a presentation regarding the progress of several school-based health initiatives aimed at improving student health.

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Policy Update: Kendall Stagg mentioned that the U.S. Congress, Illinois General Assembly, and Chicago City Council are all in recess during the month of August, which makes this month's update brief.

- **Illinois General Assembly**

All bills that passed both chambers during the 2014 Spring Session have been sent to the Governor for his review. A total of 511 bills (268 House Bills and 243 Senate Bills).

As of August 17th, Governor Quinn has already acted on more than half of those bills. One such bill signed into law this week was the SmokeFree Campus Act, which was signed on Sunday. It mandates that in 2015 all publicly supported campuses must go smokefree. This includes e-cigarettes.

Smoking will no longer be allowed indoors and outdoors on state-supported college campuses across Illinois. Of course, here in Chicago, we are already ahead of the game. UIC instituted a policy on their campus in July of last year, joining seven campuses of the City Colleges of Chicago, Roosevelt University and Robert Morris University.

- **New Regulations: Obesity Prevention Standards for Licensed Childcare Centers**

On Friday August 15, JCAR (Illinois Joint Commission on Administrative Rules) published changes to Administrative Code (Title 89, Chapter III, Subchapter e, Part 407) regarding Licensing Standards for Day Care Centers.

These changes include tremendous improvements related to childhood obesity prevention in licensed childcare centers across the state of Illinois. New licensing requirements, which went into effect on August 1, 2014, establish best practice standards for prevention of childhood obesity by increasing physical activity, reducing passive screen time, and limiting unhealthy food choices. The new requirements also make improvements to breastfeeding support for breastfeeding women whose children are in licensed childcare.

If imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, the Board should be flattered, as the state's Day Care Licensing regulations are a replication of the standards the Chicago Board of Health passed in 2009.

New Business: None.

Old Business: None.

Public Comments: Ms. Badonna Reingold asked the Commissioner to give an update on the mental health hearings that occurred.

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The Commissioner responded that yesterday (Tuesday, August 19, 2014) he provided an update of our Mental Health Services efforts at a City Council hearing. The Commissioner highlighted that due to the commitment of CDPH's entire Mental Health team, including CDPH's clinical team, administrative staff and site directors, CDPH continues to provide direct services to anywhere between 2,100 and 2,500 active clients at any one time during the past two years. In addition to direct services, CDPH has helped secure \$14.2 million additional dollars that are being invested in the City's larger mental health system. As a result, we have provided for 5,727 more psychiatric patient visits, launched new children's services on the South and West Sides, increased Ryan White funding for mental health services for people living with HIV and provided integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment for 4,500 people through a new federal grant.

The Commissioner mentioned that he also outlined the Department's ongoing enrollment efforts around the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and that by increasing the numbers of residents with insurance will in turn provide them with increased opportunities for mental health services. He lastly provided a preview of new programs the Department is proposing next year.

Vocal opponents to consolidation of the mental health clinics raised the concerns the Department has been hearing for some time. Many of the stories they told were heart wrenching and really underscored the importance of expanding access to mental health services. In closing, the Commissioner noted that while the Department may not always agree on what is the best approach to achieve that goal, it is clear all sides of this debate can agree that access to mental health services is an important public health issue.

The Commissioner outlined three new mental health investments he plans to include in this year's budget request. The Commissioner acknowledged there is still more work to be done, but we are moving in the right direction.

Ms. Reingold asked if CDPH had made a decision about being part of network. The Commissioner indicated that this decision has not been made to date.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:16 AM.

Next Board Meeting: September 17, 2014, 9:00 A.M.