

**Meeting Summary of the Regular Meeting of
the Chicago Board of Health
CDPH Board Room, 2nd Floor
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street
Wednesday, December 18, 2013, 9:00 a.m.**

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

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

For the Department:

Commissioner Bechara Choucair, M.D.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
December 18, 2013 DePaul Center, 333 S. State Street
Meeting Summary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:09 A.M.

Approval of Minutes: All board members were in favor of approving the November 20, 2013 minutes.

Commissioner's Report and Healthy Chicago Update: Commissioner Bechara Choucair, M.D. provided an update of the following items:

- Our big news this month is that thanks to the support of many partners, including the Board of Health, and the hard work of CDPH staff, last week the City Council passed an ordinance prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco products – including menthol – within 500 feet of schools. While there are many different laws that regulate flavored tobacco, we are the first jurisdiction to include menthol as a flavor.
- We had less success with a proposed ordinance to regulate e-cigarettes, but will continue that work and anticipate action early in the new year.
- Last past week we concluded ACA training for adult service librarians. Approximately 108 librarians participated in one of four sessions and are now armed with information to answer basic insurance coverage questions and refer visitors to enrollment navigators.
- On December 9th, we co-in sponsored with the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCASE) an Artists' Town Hall at the Cultural Center where 125 artists had one-hour appointments with navigators and another 150 participated in an educational seminar. In addition to working with DCASE to coordinate the event, our staff was on hand and provided 47 flu shots.
- The Enroll Chicago team was also on hand at a December 4th training of 80 local chambers of commerce to provide basic information. We are working with the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection to schedule a more in depth training about small business insurance
- Yesterday we issued a call for nominations for 2013 Healthy Chicago Awards. We want to recognize the efforts of 12 individuals and organizations who have contributed significantly to the goals of Healthy Chicago. Nominations are due December 30th and awardees will be recognized early next year at the release of our Healthy Chicago 2nd Annual Report.
- Currently, the risk of influenza infection is low. Nonetheless, influenza activity has been increasing over the past 4 weeks. Influenza activity usually peaks in January or later. To remind healthcare providers and the public that it is not too late to give or get a flu shot, CDPH led partners (IDPH, BCBS, U of C, U of I, Illinois AAP, EverThrive, Walgreens etc.) throughout the state in *Vaccinate Illinois Week* from December 8th through 14th. Activities included a public information campaign with newspaper ads, radio PSAs, the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois building was lit up with "Get Flu Shot", influenza updates for healthcare providers and numerous clinics at community based organizations, shopping malls, schools and an aldermanic office.

Comments from Board President: Dr. Lopez welcomed all visitors to the Board of Health meeting. She commented to the Board that it was a rewarding experience to represent them during the recent City Council hearings as the culminating effort of the Board's Town Halls and interest of curtailing flavored tobacco products among Chicago's youth. She remarked it was interesting to see the City Council process in action. It was very laborious in process, but interesting nonetheless. She shared with the Board her enthusiasm of what they accomplished this past year and how important it is to press onward

with other initiatives, noting that the Town Hall model served as a good vehicle for moving policy and obtaining the community's input.

Policy/Legislative Update: Erica Salem, Deputy Commissioner, presented the Policy/Legislative Report, including the following highlights from the Board of Health's participation this past year:

- **Public Health Accreditation.** The Board of Health was asked to give generously of their time to assist with the Departments application for accreditation, including a closed-door meeting with the Public Health Accreditation Board. As a result, the City of Chicago became the first big city to receive accreditation.
- **Adoption of Food Plan.** Another first. The Chicago Plan Commission adopted "A Recipe for Healthy Places," the City's first food plan, which focused on strategies for curbing obesity. Some members of the Plan Commission asked our colleagues at DHED why a health document was being put on the agenda for a body that typically approves plans related to the built environment. A letter from the Board of Health answered those questions — reminding members of the strong tie between urban planning and public health and that public health professionals were actually the very first urban planners. The Board's letter was well received. The food plan was adopted unanimously.
- **Repeal of HIV Principal Notification Law.** The Board of Health spent extra time reviewing and adopting an Open Letter to the Illinois General Assembly, calling for the repeal of Illinois' HIV Principal Notification Law. The letter was widely used by advocates during legislative visits. The Board's letter and an op-ed from the Commissioner were referenced on the floor of the General Assembly just moments prior to a final vote on the law.
- **Menthol Town Halls.** The Board gladly gave extra time again, when the Mayor asked the Board to host a series of town hall meetings on menthol-flavored cigarettes.
- **Flavored Tobacco Ordinance.** And, another first. On December 11, the City Council passed an ordinance that restricts the sale of ALL flavored tobacco products near schools -- including menthol-flavored cigarettes. This is the very first time that any jurisdiction at any level of government — Federal, state, or local — has ever regulated menthol in the many laws that regulate flavored tobacco products. When being considered by the full Council, the Mayor shared photos and excerpts from the Board's menthol report with Alderman. This is a big victory for the City of Chicago, with many thanks owed to the Board of Health.

In summary, the year was filled with examples of the Board going the extra mile and achieving a number of first-time (or groundbreaking) victories and the Department appreciates all the Board has done to make this a successful year.

Of course, the Board's work is not done, as the Commissioners of Health and BACP are required to promulgate rules necessary to implement new law on flavored tobacco. The Board will likely be requested to assist in the rule-making process, and other health policy initiatives, in the near future.

Presentation: Neurodevelopmental Disorders Associated with Prenatal Exposure to Alcohol. Dr. Carl Bell, Board of Health member provided the presentation. Dr. Bell provided a background primer on the issue noting the risk factors, the relation to the increase of ADHD, the influence of protective factors and the overall prevalence of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder. Dr. Bell shared case studies, especially noting the promising studies of attenuating ethanol's effects with through the use of choline for prenatal women and their newborns. In his closing, Dr. Bell provided several recommendations to combat the effects of Fetal Alcohol Exposure.

New Business: The Board requested a briefing of the current menthol tobacco advertising campaign. Commissioner Choucair noted he would ensure a briefing was provided to the Board.

Old Business: No Old Business came before the Board.

Public Comments: Ms. Badonna Reingold inquired that with the challenge of obtaining psychiatrists to serve the City's mental health clinic patients could Physician Assistants be considered for this role. Dr. Choucair expressed that the Department is exploring alternative provider types that could provide psychiatry services. However, he noted that there is not a large supply of practitioners in this field currently to meet the demand. The Department and Rush University are meeting to explore this issue.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 10:10 A.M.

Next Board Meeting: January 15th, 2013, 9:00 A.M.