

Chicago Board of Health
Meeting Summary February 17, 2016
Depaul Center, 333 South State Street

Roll Call

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President
Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.
Melanie Dreher, RN, PhD.
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., DDS, MPH
Victor M. Gonzalez
Steven 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., Commissioner

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Dr. Lopez, Board President

Commissioner's Update: Commissioner Morita provided the following updates:

Zika Virus Preparedness

CDPH is leading outreach and education efforts about the zika virus across the city. The department is providing guidance to medical providers as well as providing information to clinics, community groups, Aldermen, CPS, and the media. We will continue to monitor the situation and share more information as it becomes available.

Tobacco Ordinance

On February 8th, Dr. Morita testified at the Finance Committee meeting in support of the tobacco ordinance introduced by Mayor Emanuel. More information was provided during the policy update.

Food Safety In the News

PBS Newshour ran a story highlighting Chicago's innovative use of predictive analytics. The story features the work of CDPH, DoIT, and other technology partners and discusses how other cities may adopt our practices. The video is available at PBS.org and the CDPH Facebook page and website.

Mikva Challenge Youth Voice Congress

On February 6th, Dr. Morita participated in the Mikva Challenge Youth Voice Congress. Over 500 students discussed and designed solutions to address unemployment, safety, school closures, climate and health. Student suggestions related to health included exercise, cafeteria food and sex-ed.

Healthy Communities Challenge

Chicago was one of 20 cities that participated in President Obama's Healthy Communities Challenge to reduce the number of uninsured residents in coordination with Federal, State, City and community partners. Chicago was #2 in signing up uninsured residents with 310,523 consumers in Chicago selected or automatically enrolled in a Marketplace plan. Additionally, 214,061 low-income Chicago adults were enrolled in ACA Adult Medicaid before November 31, 2015.

Comments by the Board President: Dr. Lopez welcomed all the students and visitors and provided an overview of the board's history advisory role in matters of public health. She commented on recent news that a state board had declined to make new diagnoses eligible for participation in the medical marijuana program. She suggested discussing the subject at a future board meeting.

Policy Update: Jesse Lava provided the following updates:

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- Mayor Emanuel's tobacco reform ordinance passed 22-9 in the City Council's Committee on Finance. The ordinance would raise the tobacco age from 18 to 21, tax tobacco products beyond cigarettes, and ban discounts on tobacco. In response to aldermanic concerns, it was also amended to crack down on the sale of loose cigarettes. However, the measure was deferred and published, and will not come to a vote until the next City Council session.
- Aldermen Burke and Hairston put forward an ordinance to end the sales tax on tampons, saying these are medical products that should be exempt from the sales tax. CDPH is currently examining the proposal.
- Alderman Silverstein introduced an ordinance to allow licensed animal shelters to create small cafés where only pre-packaged food is served.
- State bills. Despite the state budget standstill, the Illinois General Assembly has begun meeting for 2016 and legislation is being introduced. Several bills relevant to health have arisen thus far. Examples include bills that would:
 - Extend restrictions on cigarette smoking in schools and other government locations to e-cigarettes, including those that have no nicotine.
 - Create a Rare Diseases Commission.
 - Create a 24/7 nursing hotline.

Presentation: CDPH Strategic Planning Process – Jaime Dircksen, Managing Deputy Commissioner, Ann Cibulskis, Coordinating planner, Marlee Hendricks, Intern

A brief discussion with the board members of the department's mission, vision, strengths and weaknesses followed the presentation

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public Comment: None.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

Next Board Meeting: March 16, 2016, 9:00 a.m.