

**Meeting Summary of the Regular Meeting of  
The Chicago Board of Health  
CDPH Board Room, 2nd Floor  
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street  
Wednesday, March 19, 2014**

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**Roll Call**

Board Members Present:

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D.  
Melanie Dreher, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.  
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.  
Caswell A Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.

Board Members Absent:

Victor Gonzalez  
Carl C. Bell, M.D.  
Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.  
Horace E. Smith, M.D.  
Joseph B. Starshak

For the Department:

Bechara Choucair, M.D., Commissioner

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**March 19, 2014**  
**DePaul Center, 333 S. State Street**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:06 am

**Approval of Minutes:** Due to a lack of quorum, the review and approval of the December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and February 19<sup>th</sup> 2014 minutes was deferred until next month.

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

- The Healthy Chicago Annual Report of 2013 was released; Dr. Choucair thanked those who attended the annual release. Over 200 participants and partners attended the release of the Healthy Chicago Annual Report. The Healthy Chicago Annual Report and presentation is available on CDPH's website: [www.cityofchicago.org/health](http://www.cityofchicago.org/health).
- Cases of the influenza are low throughout the city, but influenza viruses' are still circulating and causing disease. Since September there have been 165 reported influenza associated ICU hospitalizations. Fourteen deaths have been reported, one of them being a pediatric death.
- On March 19<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Choucair presented at a joint meeting of the City Council's Education Committee and the Committee on Health and Environmental Protection. Dr. Choucair and Chicago Public Schools Chief Health Officer, Dr. Stephanie Whyte showcased collaborative work to improve student and adolescent health.
- On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Mayor Rahm Emanuel released final regulations for petroleum coke ("pet coke") throughout the city. The Mayor introduced an ordinance that prohibits new pet coke storing facilities or the expansion of existing pet coke facilities throughout the city.
- The Enroll Chicago! Initiative that is focused on insuring Chicago taxi drivers is getting lots of media coverage. This effort stations patient navigators at City taxicab license renewal locations and to educate and enroll uninsured taxi drivers in health insurance available through the Affordable Care Act.

**Comments from Board President:** President Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D welcomed all guests to the Board of Health meeting and shared the Board's mission. Dr. Lopez communicated that communicable diseases continue to be a concern for public health and the Board of Health. The Board provides advice to the Mayor and the Commissioner of Health on local health regulations and ordinances. Dr. Lopez stated that the past six months the Board has been involved in efforts to decrease tobacco use among youth, especially menthol cigarettes and requiring e-cigarettes to be regulated as tobacco products under the Clean Indoor Air Act.

**Presentation: Current State of the HIV Epidemic:** Nik Prachand, MPH, Director of HIV/STI Surveillance, Epidemiology and Research discussed the highlights of HIV/STI Surveillance Report. The report documents a continuing decline of HIV incidence and AIDS diagnoses in Chicago over the last decade. The report shares that MSM continue to represent the majority of new HIV cases and that they represent 69% of all new cases in 2011, up from 60% in 2007. The report is the first to include Transgender data. Other findings show that even though HIV rates have decreased for all racial/ethnic groups, African Americans continue to have higher rates. In fact, Black MSM diagnoses now are higher than White and Hispanic MSM combined. This is especially seen in Black MSM between aged 20-29 and aged 13-19. Mr. Prachand shared that he will be presented these data in the community, including events at the Center on Halsted and the Chicago Cultural Center.

Board member Steven K. Rothschild, M.D. inquired about the slight difference of numbers of viral suppression on the report and presentation. Mr. Prachand said the numbers were recently revised since their last collection of data in November and the updated information will be discussed in his presentation at the April Board of Health meeting. Dr. Rothschild also asked about how the data will be presented to the communities. Mr. Prachand shared that they are working with a local advertising agency to develop a marketing campaign that reflects the findings and that treatment is prevention. Dr. Choucair explained how the HIV/STI Surveillance Report was released in Hyde Park in January and every subpopulation will have a detailed report in their communities

**Policy/Legislative Update:** Kendall Stagg, Director of Policy, delivered a policy report to the Board. Highlights included:

***City:***

- Facilities that store pet coke, coal, and other forms of coke are now required to fully enclose their storage piles and submit monthly reports on the implementation of new health and safety measures. The regulations go into effect immediately and build upon Mayor Emanuel's efforts to combat pet coke dust emissions.
- San Francisco and Los Angeles both unanimously passed their e-cigarette ordinance, and specifically mentioned the City of Chicago in their efforts. Philadelphia also unanimously passed their ordinance for e-cigarettes but it must go through their full council. The City of Berkeley, California passed a resolution of prohibiting the sale of flavored tobacco around schools, similar to Chicago's ordinance on February 25. They have unanimously passed a resolution to replicate Chicago's ordinance.

***State of Illinois:***

- On March 20<sup>th</sup>, the State of Illinois will hold a hearing on a bill that would allow for local control of taxation on the pricing of tobacco products. The Board of Health's report on menthol cigarettes addressed this issue.
- A minimal amount of bills have been moved out of committee due to a slow start in Springfield. March 25<sup>th</sup> was the deadline for the Senate and House, There was an expectation that legislation would extend the deadline for bills.

***Federal:***

- The Commissioner sent a letter advocating for mandates to improve the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) program, stock mandates, and the requirement of perishable items for the Farm Bill. SNAP retailers are required to implement point-of-sale systems. This system will not redeem SNAP benefits for purchasing ineligible items and will prevent cashiers from overriding the restriction. The Depth-of-Stock mandates require SNAP retailers to stock at least seven different varieties of foods from the four staple food categories on a continuous basis and stock at least one perishable food item in at least three of the four staple food categories. Depth-of-Stock provisions will be enforced once the rule making process concludes. The bill also included money for guidance for SNAP retailers to help them making selling fresh fruits and vegetables a successful business model.

Board member Caswell A Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H., asked about tobacco products and the taxing differences between cigarettes and cigarillos. Mr. Stagg said that the cigarillos are tobacco products and they require the same distribution licensing, but the taxing is different. Cigarillos are not taxed like cigarettes and are cheaper. Mr. Stagg explained that when flavored cigarettes were banned, the industry developed the cigarillo product, which is tobacco rolled in a leaf.

Board member Melanie Dreher, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., asked what has been the response to CVS's decision on not to sell cigarettes. Kendall Stagg shared that the American Public Health Association and community health groups are pushing Walgreens and other pharmacies to do the same. Dr. Lopez added that twenty attorneys general sent a letter to Wal-Mart, Walgreens, and other retailers that have pharmacies to discontinue the sale of cigarettes.

Deputy Commissioner, Erica Salem, MPH gave an update on the Federal FY2014 Omnibus Budget.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2014 (H.R.3547) was presented on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to the House Appropriations Committee. This bill was presented as a \$1.02 trillion dollar omnibus package for the 2014 fiscal year. An omnibus bill is used to address a number of spending bills into one single bill. This Omnibus bill includes a budget for the 12-appropriation subcommittee spending bills in order to fund the government for the remainder of the 2014 fiscal year. Highlights of the budget include:

- *Prevention and Public Health Fund:*

The Omnibus bill includes \$928 million for the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF), \$72 million on the fund was sequestered.

- *Riders*

The Omnibus bill includes riders that are of interest to local health departments, highlights from the National Connection for Local Public Health (NACCHO) include:

- Section 317 Immunization Program (PPHF) received \$588 million, an increase of \$60 million from FY2013. Section 317 provides federally purchased vaccinations for children, adolescents, and adults.

*Centers of Disease Control and Prevention:*

- The Omnibus bill includes \$6.8 billion, which is an increase of \$569 million from FY2013. CDC funding is almost restored to the pre-sequestered level, \$17 million less than FY2012.

Programs of interest at CDC highlighted by NACCHO include:

- Immunization and Respiratory Diseases received \$744 million, an increase of \$65 million. This includes Section 317; the total includes \$160 million from the PPHF.
- Epidemiology and Lab Capacity Grants (PPHF) received \$40 million from the PPHF, which matched FY2013.
- Community Prevention Grants received \$80 million in new funding for three-year grants.
- The Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) received \$640 million, which is an increase of \$32 million from the FY2013.

- *Health Resources and Services Administration*

The Omnibus bill includes \$6.3 billion, an increase of \$436 million from FY2013.

Community Health Centers received \$3.7 billion, an increase of \$715 million.

Ryan White AIDS programs received \$2.3 billion, an increase of \$70 million over FY2013. Part A cities received \$656 million, an increase of \$32 million over FY2013. Part A of the Ryan White AIDS programs provides assistance to cities in metropolitan areas that are severely affected by HIV/AIDS.

- *Office of the HHS Secretary*

The Teen Pregnancy Prevention initiative received \$109 Million, an increase of \$11 million. The initiative's goal is to reduce teen pregnancy and to address disparities and birth rates in teen pregnancy.

**Presentation: Enroll Chicago: Leveraging City Agencies to Increase Insurance Coverage:** Erica Salem, Deputy Commissioner presented on a review of the uninsured in Chicago, the Enroll Chicago! Initiative, and Illinois Affordable Care Act update. Chicago has a total of 506,340 people who are uninsured; of which 235,069 people who are eligible for expanded Medicaid and 220,703 were eligible for market place insurance with a tax credit. The Enroll Chicago effort is about increasing the number of insured Chicagoans by leveraging City resources and partnerships. Including: Chicago Public Library, Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, City Colleges of Chicago, Chicago Housing Authority, and Chicago Department of Aviation. These departments have hosted events in education and enrollment services for Chicago citizens. Other efforts include: the Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection hosting three navigators to enroll taxi drivers at their licensing sites, the Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities becoming certified assistance counselors, the Chicago Police educating the community at CAPS meetings, and the Chicago Public Schools will be promoting Medicaid enrollment for the students. In addition to the previously mention partners, Health & Disability Advocates (HAD), Enroll America, and Get Covered Illinois are key partners for CDPH. CDPH is working with HAD/Illinois Health Matters, Small Business Majority, and the Campaign for Better Health Care to inform small businesses through a website with information and webinars. In addition, data show that the Illinois Marketplace enrolled 113,733 citizens statewide and 200,000 citizens statewide have enrolled in Medicaid expansion.

Dr. Evans asked Ms. Salem if there was information about people who are learn about the health plans and still choose not to enroll. Ms. Salem said it often takes six to eight encounters before someone who is not familiar with health insurance actually completes the application. Dr. Lopez confirmed that the last day for enrollment March 31<sup>st</sup> for this current enrollment period, but that does not mean the end of enrollment, because there is an open enrollment period every year. Ms. Salem expressed that all of the agencies at the local enrollment level are benefiting from state or federal funding, which will help reengage people for the next enrollment period.

**New Business:** None.

**Old Business:** None.

**Public Comments:** Ms. Badonna Reingold inquired about the requirement for Medicaid recipients to be in managed care health plans. Dr. Choucair responded that legislation was passed that requires 50% of Illinois Medicaid recipients to be in managed care plans by 2015. Medicaid managed care roll out in Chicago is starting with people with disabilities or chronic medical problems. Letters from the state were sent with information about choosing a managed care plans by April 6<sup>th</sup>. If clients do not reply, the State will assign them a plan that includes their current providers, as possible. CDPH is in contact with the State and following these processes. Ms. Reingold stated her concern that enrollment is happening so quickly and that there is not enough education for Medicaid recipients. The Commissioner said that

CDPH is raising this issue with the State; however CDPH does not have oversight on this state-run program.

Ms. Laura Havaens inquired about food allergy management policies in Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Ms. Salem shared that CPS Office of Student Health and Wellness has a food allergy in place, however, the implementation of this policy may vary by school. Dr. Choucair offered to connect Ms. Havaens with CPS staff who oversee the policy, and that Ms. Salem would follow up with contact information.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 10:17 a.m

**Next Board Meeting: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014, 9:00 A.M.**