

Chicago Board of Health
Meeting Summary November 14, 2014
Depaul Center, 333 South State Street

Roll Call

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President
Melanie Dreher, RN, PhD.
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., DDS, MPH
Steven Rothschild, M.D.
Horace E. Smith, M.D.
Joseph B. Starshak

Board Members Absent

Carl C. Bell, M.D.
Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.
Victor M. Gonzalez

For the Department

Bechara Choucair, M.D., Commissioner

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Dr. Lopez, Board President

Approval of Minutes: The approval of the October minutes was deferred.

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

- The November Healthy Chicago Update handout includes information about Ebola preparedness, favorable preliminary opinions in the two flavored tobacco lawsuits, which will likely be dismissed.
- Dr. Morita, Chief Medical Officer, provided details about the ongoing Ebola efforts. Travelers are being screened by temperature and questionnaires to determine exposure at O'Hare airport. Thousands have been screened, but most travel on to other cities. The Department is responsible for monitoring travelers from Nigeria, Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Mali that stay in Chicago. Ten individuals are monitored weekly and none have exhibited any symptoms. The Department is also working closely with area hospitals and first responders.
- The Commissioner introduced Tiosha Bailey, the new Deputy Commissioner of clinical services.
- The Department was awarded the National Forum for Heart Disease and Stroke's 2014 Heart Healthy, Stroke Free Award for its planning efforts to reduce heart disease and stroke.

Comments by the Board President: Dr. Lopez welcomed all the members of the public attending the meeting. Dr. Lopez expressed how proud she has been as she travels professionally around the country on the work the Department and the Board of Health are engaged upon with respect to addressing health issues, especially tobacco prevention.

Presentation: Food Protection Program – Gerrin Butler, Director of Food Protection

Board members inquired about automated reporting, what happens during an inspection, how violations are categorized, how long inspections take, and challenges to scheduling inspections.

Public Hearing: Proposed Changes to Food Code

Kendall Stagg and Gerrin Butler presented the changes to the Food Code to be reviewed and adopted by the Board. The previous regulations expired and need to be updated. The substantive changes to these regulations are regarding:

- **Mobile Food Vehicles:** Each mobile food vehicle must have a combustible gas detector and if they have propane or natural gas tanks, they must have an accurate manufacture date label.
- **Food Handler Training:** Language from the Illinois code requiring food handler training was added to the regulations and inspection reports.

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No comments or questions from the Board or the public on the proposed changes to the Food Code

Dr. Lopez invited testimony from the public, none was offered. She then asked for a vote from the Board.

Dr. Rothschild put forward motion to vote on mobile food vehicles, seconded by Dr. Lopez, no discussion, passed unanimously

Dr. Rothschild put forward motion to vote on food handler training change, seconded by Dr. Lopez, no discussion, passed unanimously.

The proposed changes to the food code were adopted by the Board.

Policy Update: Kendall Stagg provided the following updates:

- **Emergency Powers:** The Board granted quarantine powers for the Commissioner to use when “deemed necessary,” but it is unclear what this means and no regulations have been promulgated about this. To date, this power has only been used to screen passengers at O’Hare. The Department is working closely with IDPH and the AG’s office to develop consistent standards for Ebola screening to be implemented by Chicago and 9 other health departments
- **Mandatory Quarantine:** Mandatory quarantine for individuals coming into the U.S. from countries from Ebola affected countries, which has been used in New York and New Jersey, is a legal grey area. Chicago is not implementing mandatory quarantine.
- **Taxation of Other Tobacco Products:** It is unclear if Chicago has the authority to tax products other than cigarettes, or if state law preempts such taxes. There is a bill in the House for the upcoming veto session that would clarify this.
- **Flavored Tobacco Ban:** Two lawsuits were filed and one of the central arguments was federal preemption. The two first preliminary orders have been issued in these lawsuits. In both cases, the judges handed down opinions favorable to the City, finding that the restrictions on the sale of flavored tobacco products near schools, including menthol, are not preempted by federal law.

Questions: Board members asked about other tobacco product tax preemption and Evanston’s Tobacco 21 ordinance.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Comments:

A member of the public commented that the city is experiencing a mental health crisis and a shortage of psychiatric providers likely resulting from low salary. She recommended increasing

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the salary for the positions. Dr. Choucair responded that despite efforts to recruit candidates, they are difficult to fill. A request was made to the Budget of Office and Management to increase the salary to attract more candidates and the Department will continue to monitor the recruitment process. Tiosha Bailey also provided details about procedures used to ensure that clients running low on medicine can get their prescriptions refilled at refill clinics. The rollout of a new electronic medical records system should make generating reports on clients running low and missing appointments easier in the future.

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

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