

**Meeting Summary of the Regular Meeting of
the Chicago Board of Health
CDPH Board Room, 2nd Floor
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street
Wednesday, November 20, 2013, 9:00a.m.**

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D.
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.
Horace E. Smith, M.D.

For the Department:

Deputy Commissioner Erica Salem, M.P.H.

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
November 20, 2013 DePaul Center, 333 S. State Street
Meeting Summary

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:07A.M.

Approval of Minutes: The Board of Health approved the October 16, 2013 minutes.

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

- November 5, 2013 was the departmental budget hearing; Commissioner Choucair answered questions for the alderman. The 2014 budget includes an additional \$500,000 for Children's Medicaid enrollment and \$2 million for vision services for students.
- Several Healthy Chicago partners and Dr. Carolyn C. Lopez, representing the Chicago Board of Health, testified in support of the mayor's \$0.75 cent cigarette tax increase at the City Council meeting.
- November 26, 2013 is the scheduled date for City Council to vote on the city's budget.
- Two patients have been reported hospitalized with influenza related illnesses. The rate of influenza remains low in Chicago and throughout the U.S. The immunization program has hosted 58 flu clinics and vaccinated over 8,000 city residents. Family flu days were very successful; over 1500 people were vaccinated at 5 locations, with over 200 doses of pediatric influenza distributed through Enroll Chicago!
- Enroll Chicago! has been partnering with state-funded navigator agencies that work on site at larger flu clinics. Enroll Chicago! is also working with partners throughout the state to prepare for Vaccinate Illinois Week activities, which starts December 8, 2013, to remind the public and providers that it's still not too late to get a flu shot.
- Enroll Chicago! continues to work with partners to support the Affordable Care Act (ACA) enrollment through the Enroll Chicago! campaign. 200 librarians will be trained in early December to provide basic information and referrals to navigators for library visitors and on December 9, 2013 there will be an education enrollment Town Hall for artists at the Department of Cultural Affairs (Cultural Center). There will be 50 navigators on hand to enroll artists in the ACA and to flu shots will also be provided.

Board member Joseph B. Starshak asked why there was a low incidence of flu in the nation. Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer Jay Bhatt answered Mr. Starshak's question and said that it is not as aggressive and the vaccination has also been provided at a higher rate than it has been in the past.

Board member Melanie Dreher, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N. directed a question to Ms. Salem on why artists are being targeted for insurance enrollment. Ms. Salem said that artists are disproportionately uninsured compared to the general population.

Comments from Board President: Dr. Dreher welcomed students and audience members to the board meeting on behalf of President Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D. Dr. Dreher gave a brief history of the Board.

Policy/Legislative Update: Kendall Stagg, Director of Policy, presented the Policy/Legislative Report, including the following highlights:

City:

- Mayor Rahm Emanuel proposed a \$0.75 tax increase on cigarettes. A tax increase is the single most effective way to keep youth from picking up the habit of smoking. An estimated \$2 million of the \$10 million in new revenues will be used to expand vision services for low-income children next year.
- Commissioner Choucair testified for several hours at the budget hearing for the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) on November 5, 2013. Commissioner Choucair advocated aggressively for the increase in the tobacco excise tax. He presented independent data that showed the Mayor's proposed tax increase will cause thousands of adults to quit smoking and will prevent Chicago youth from starting the habit of smoking.
- The City Council meeting was held on November 13, 2013. A public hearing was held on the Mayor's proposed budget. Dr. Carolyn C. Lopez authored a letter from the Board of Health in support of the tax. The letter provided a strong disapproval of the scare tactics being used by the tobacco industry in an attempt to prevent the tax increase.
- On November 18th, 2013 the Board of Health's letter was presented in the Finance Committee. It was used as a tool to rebut arguments made by the tobacco industry.
- Numerous groups have suggested lowering the tobacco tax to only \$0.50 or passing it over a span of 3 years. The Mayor refused to compromise on the \$0.75 cigarette tax increase because it would be saving lives and improving health.
- November 21st, 2013 was the American Cancer Society's (ACS) *Great American Smokeout Day*. In conjunction with this event, the ACS and other national health groups held a press conference to not only encourage Chicagoans to quit smoking, but to also voice their support for the Mayor's \$0.75 tax increase.

Board member Joseph B. Starshak asked about the nature of the objections at the City Hall hearing on tobacco hearings. Mr. Stagg replied that the tobacco industry has not been shy with their objections. Along with tobacco industry attorneys, there are retailers also voicing their opinions and the opposition has also created social networking campaigns targeting smokers to engage the Mayor's office and the alderman to reconsider the tobacco tax increase. Other opposition arguments include that the increased tobacco tax is unfair to the black community and low-income people. These groups say the tax is regressive and it will cause black-market sales. Mr. Stagg noted that Chicago unfortunately already has a large black market, but there is no evidence that an increased tax would expand Chicago's black market. The Mayor's office has stated the proper way to deal with the black market is through a national track and trace system, increasing enforcement, and other policy solutions. Mr. Stagg reiterated that the tax increase is the single most effective way of preventing kids from picking up the habit of smoking in the first place. If the proposed tax passes, Chicago will have the most expensive cigarettes nationwide. Mr. Stagg also reported that Mayor Bloomberg of New York City held a bill signing regarding his recent tobacco control proposals, yet noting he removed the restriction on the display of all tobacco in the city due to concerns of violating the First Amendment.

State:

- The veto session has ended and the Illinois General Assembly adjourned. During the veto session, the marriage equality bill was passed.

Federal:

- Governing Magazine reported that many Americans did not know that they were eligible for Medicaid until they pursued insurance from their state's online health exchange.

Questions/comments from Board: Deputy Commissioner Erica Salem added that much of the media tension around the ACA has been due to its web based launch. Ms. Salem said that about half of the people eligible for insurance in Chicago are eligible because of Medicaid. ACA enrollment in Illinois is moving regardless of the federal delays. There have been 40,000 people who have enrolled in addition to those who are coming into County Care.

Presentation: Violence Prevention: Marlita White, LCSW Director of Violence Prevention at CDPH provided a presentation on the Office of Violence Prevention. Ms. White explained that violence impacts families, communities, and society at large, but violence can be prevented. The Office of Violence Prevention has highlighted three specific initiatives that fit into the Healthy Chicago Policy Agenda: (1) bullying, (2) childhood exposure to violence, and (3) teenage violence. Chicago youth are reported being bullied on school property and online. More than 10% of these students reported missing school due to safety concerns. The Office of Violence Prevention began to convene with Chicago groups and outside groups who are involved with bullying prevention. With these groups, the Office of Violence Prevention has created new and better methods reach parents with resources that they can use to help their children, including a new webpage. The Child Exposure to Violence (CEV) program recognizes that exposure to violence occurs when children are in a household where violence occurs or they are living in communities where violence is occurring in public. The CEV program focuses on 0-5 year olds, while partner groups work with kids up to 18 or 21 year olds based on their scope of work. The Office of Violence Prevention also maintains leadership in a national public awareness campaign on exposure to violence. The Teen Dating Violence program, funding is provided from the CDC, which is a 5-year grant program. Currently, three different evidence based curricula are being implemented in grades 6 through 8, in 11 Chicago public schools. There are 15 youth ambassadors that co-lead education to peers within Teen Dating Violence programs. These ambassadors teach other CPS student about health relationships and how to best prevent violence. Ms. White asked the Board of Health for their ideas on possible partners in terms of bullying prevention, exposure to violence, and teen dating violence. The Office of Violence Prevention specifically requested assistance with circulating their policy brief widely.

Board member Victor M. Gonzalez requested that the Office of Violence Prevention also consider working with students outside the Chicago Public School system. He noted that there is a considerable amount of youth being educated through the Arch Diocese of Chicago and other alternative schools systems that should be included in these efforts as well. Ms. White introduced Erica Davis the project manager of The Chicago Dating Matters Initiative (CDMI), who explained the Department led Advisory Board is reviewing ways to expand beyond CPS. Ms. Davis noted there are faith-based representatives working with the violence and prevention office and despite there not being any catholic school representatives there are other alternative schools represented, such as charter schools. Mr. Gonzalez stated that the lack of catholic school system on the advisory board creates a gap in the targeted

population. Mr. Gonzales stated that as a Board of Health for the City of Chicago programs should not be segregated to just CPS students, as the student needs of charter school and religious-based students should also be addressed. Ms. Salem commented that CDPH has expanded its school-based oral health program to charter schools.

Dr. Dreher asked for clarification on internet and social media bullying. Ms. White highlighted a specific bullying package has been developed, with courses on both cyber bullying and traditional face-to-face bullying. There is also information on early childhood bullying to people who work with 0-5 year olds.

Board member Steven K. Rothschild, M.D. inquired how domestic violence intersects with children exposed to violence and particularly if a screening for domestic violence was conducted at the time of birth. Ms. White said that it is essential that these two areas of violence stay connected, whereby the Office of Violence Prevention sits on the domestic violence advisory council, which represents the domestic violence providers across the city that are providing shelter services, interventions, advocacy work at the domestic violence courthouse. It is at these sites where the medical community is encouraged to do violence screenings routinely. The Department's maternal child health home visitation program is another opportunity to observe if there is any child abuse present in the home.

Board member Joseph B. Starshak asked about the rate of internal home domestic violence versus community violence outside one's home. Ms. White said exposure to community violence tends to occur within areas that have opportunities for violent activity, such as gangs and shootings, which can be more traumatic and chronic for youth. Ms. White said there are also youth living in safer known communities, where domestic violence may be occurring, but too often youth being exposed to this violence are not detected until they become disruptive at school.

New Business: The Board of Health unanimously approved its 2014 Board of Health meeting dates.

Old Business: Mr. Stagg presented the final deliberation of the draft Menthol Report, with corrections based on the comments and concerns from the previous Board of Health meeting. The report was modified to clearly state that students carrying tobacco was not a suspendable offense. The Board of Health accepted the changes and approved the report.

Public Comments: Ms. Badonna Reingold commented on some of the glitches in County Care and Medicaid, especially as it relates to mental illness referrals. Ms. Reingold said that most agencies are refusing to treat these patients or are not getting access to treat patients for up to 6 to 8 weeks. Ms. Reingold gave credit to the Department for relaxing their criteria for continuing with these patients. Ms. Reingold was disappointed that the Department decided not to apply to be a referral network for Medicaid, which will cut out the availability for many patients. Ms. Reingold asked the Board if this decision is an issue that could be discussed at Board of Health's future meetings. Dr. Dreher thanked Ms. Reingold for the comments and said that she would share her concerns and request with the Commissioner.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting adjourned at 10:11A.M.