

**Meeting Summary of the Regular Meeting of  
the Chicago Board of Health  
CDPH Board Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street  
Wednesday, October 16, 2013, 9:00 a.m.**

---

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present:

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D.  
Carl C. Bell, M.D.  
Melanie Dreher, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.  
Victor Gonzalez  
Joseph B. Starshak  
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.

Board Members Absent:

Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.  
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H..  
Horace E. Smith, M.D.

For the Department:

Bechara Choucair, M.D., Commissioner

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING**  
**October 16, 2013 DePaul Center, 333 S. State Street**  
**Meeting Summary**

**Call to Order:** President Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M.

**Approval of Minutes:** The September 18, 2013 minutes were approved on the condition that "Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is the leading cause of ADHD, mental retardation, specific learning disorders and speech and language disorders" is added to the minutes under *New Business*.

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

- The October 2013 Monthly Implementation Update now includes Healthy Chicago Public School (CPS) updates. CPS received a \$2.25 million grant from the Department of Education to focus on physical education classes for the next three years and the incorporation of recess in the school day, which will be integrated in academic curriculum. The effort was led by Dr. Stephanie Whyte, Chief of Health Officer at CPS.
- Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) has launched its flu campaign. The flu shot campaign features local Chicago sports celebrities encouraging citizens to receive their flu vaccinations; advertisements can be seen on CTA vehicles and other public transportation outlets. Television networks ABC, CBS, Telemundo, and Univision covered the release of the campaign.
- CDPH will be regularly collecting data on influenza disease from emergencies departments, intensive care units, pediatrics deaths, and laboratory testing. CDPH will be issuing weekly influenza surveillance reports, which will be distributed, to providers throughout the city.
- This year CDPH has made available 300,000 doses of free influenza vaccines to local providers for citizens who do not have access to health care. CDPH will be hosting 60 clinics throughout the city, which will be operating on a regular basis. The flu clinic finder app has been enhanced and assists in finding clinics that have flu vaccines available in Chicago clinic locations. The flu clinic finder app can be launched at [chicagoflushots.org](http://chicagoflushots.org).
- Enroll Chicago! was launched in September in order to ensure residents through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). CDPH is coordinating City departments efforts in Enroll Chicago!, with many Departments providing information to residents on the ACA. Through navigators, CDPH started enrolling citizens at HIV sites in the first week of October. On October 26, there will be two family clinics days, with onsite navigators enrolling residents for flu shots at King and Truman family flu days. On November 2, navigators will help enroll residents at the five events held at Arturo Velasquez Institute,

Wright, and Daley colleges. CDPH is also working with the Housing Authority to provide navigators to assist residents with enrollment. On November 18, CDPH will be working with the Department of Cultural Affairs at a unique event that will help enroll 300 artists in the city for the ACA. On December 4, 9, and 12 there will be informational sessions held for Chicago librarians in order to provide them with resources to educate residents on how to enroll.

- CDPH has concluded the town hall meetings on menthol cigarettes. The report on the town hall meetings, after being reviewed and finalized, will be provided to Mayor Rahm Emmanuel. The report will discuss the policy recommendations provided in town hall meetings that address menthol use by youth.

**Comments from Board Members:** None.

**Comments from Board President:** President Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D. welcomed guests and students in the audience. Dr. Lopez noted that the board is an advisory board and plays a significant role in taking action to keep citizens healthy from infectious, communicable, and chronic diseases. She gave a brief history of how the board was incorporated 175 years ago due to a cholera outbreak.

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

**City:**

- September marked the 4<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the removal of flavored cigarettes from the market in order to prevent addiction in young consumers. Menthol cigarettes were excluded from this ban. Mayor Rahm Emmanuel issued comments on the importance of this 4-year public health anniversary. His comments called for new warning labels on menthol-flavored cigarettes and urged the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to allow rule making to do that. The Mayor also stressed the importance of the regulation on other tobacco-flavored products that are still on the market, and asked the FDA to implement the track and trace system. The trace and trace system was a mandate in the Tobacco Control Act of 2009 which would track and trace cigarettes through distribution and identify when cigarettes were sold illegally and sold on the black market.

**State:**

- On October 22, 2013 the veto session will begin.

**Federal:**

- There were glitches when the insurance Marketplace went live, but it is being fixed. A new study stated that more than 800,000 people would be enrolled in the marketplaces in Illinois.
- The National Association of Tobacco Outlets (NATO) sued Providence, Rhode Island because of the implementation of an ordinance that restricted the use of coupons for discounting tobacco products and outlawed all flavored non-cigarette tobacco products in the city of Providence. New York implemented an ordinance to restrict flavored tobacco products at adult only tobacco specialty shops.

**Questions/comments from Board:** None.

**Deliberation on the Draft Menthol Report:** Dr. Lopez provided board members with time to read the draft report and then proceeded with discussion. Dr. Lopez pointed out that in the preparation of any document, there might be differences of opinion on stylistic matters. Identification of typos and grammatical errors are appreciated, but the Board's focus should be on substantive issues.

Board member Joseph B. Starshak asked if it would be helpful to have the copies of the Rhode Island and New York ordinances available to the board. Dr. Lopez would like to have the ordinances available to the board if possible, but said it would not be necessary for the discussion of the report.

Board member Victor Gonzalez agreed with Dr. Lopez that the ordinance was not necessary for the discussion of the report. Mr. Gonzalez commented that the word "laboratory" in the document should be changed. The word "incubator" was suggested as an alternative.

Board Member Joseph B. Starshak asked a question regarding the report's statement that youth possession should not be a suspendable offense. Mr. Stagg clarified that the emphasis is on the importance of using caution with youth possession and purchase penalties so that youth, especially in ethnic communities, are not criminalized. The Commissioner said that this will be reworded, because we do not want to encourage youth possession. The important message is that we don't want to make youth possession a suspendable offense if a youth is found with a tobacco product, and kids should not be criminalized. Dr. Lopez commented the last thing kids need is less time in school.

Board member Steven K. Rothschild, M.D. commented that the report was a very thoughtful analysis. Several board members discussed the phrasing around restrictions on the advertising and display of tobacco products, and whether or not to remove or keep "seeking options" and put "enact" in its place. Mr. Stagg said that placing "seek opportunities" in the document shows acknowledgment that the mayor and his law department will determine the correct action. Mr. Stagg said that Providence and New York did not touch on advertising in their ordinance.

Board member Melanie Dreher, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N. said that she would like to read the report in depth to respond to Dr. Lopez's question. Dr. Dreher asked what will happen after the board gives the mayor their best advice and suggestions. The Commissioner said the next step will be discussion between CDPH's policy office, the mayor's policy team, and the City Law Department.

Mr. Starshak said that this document will encourage other departments of health to ask the FDA to look at the regulation of menthol-flavored cigarettes. Dr. Lopez agreed and said the document could represent grassroots pressure coming up. The Commissioner said that CDPH shared his letters and the Mayor's letter to the FDA with other big city health departments.

Dr. Lopez asked the Board if there were any other elements of the document that the board would like to discuss. There was consensus that Dr. Lopez's letter should be strong, so that it clearly portrays the conviction of the board on this issue. She discussed the document's stylistic issues and the issue of the term "explores opportunity" vs. "enact". There was no objection to strengthening language of the phrase. All board members were in favor of the approving the document. Dr. Lopez thanked everyone who worked to prepare the report and to execute the town hall meetings.

**New Business: None.**

**Old Business: None.**

**Public Comments:** Ms. Badonna Reingold asked the Board of Health about mental health services for residents enrolled in CountyCare, and if any changes are anticipated. The Commissioner said that the policy around this continued to stay the same. CDPH wants to ensure that they are providing help for those in need. If existing clients apply and get CountyCare they will have the option to stay with CDPH. New clients who are insured, including those with CountyCare, are advised to contact their insurance to find a provider that is best suited for their needs. If existing clients become County Care eligible and choose to stay with CDPH, they can continue to receive CDPH services. CDPH is still in discussion with County Care on the level of services that will be provided.

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

**Next Board Meeting: November 20, 2013, 9:00 A.M.**