

**Meeting Summary of the Regular Meeting of
The Chicago Board of Health
CDPH Board Room, 2nd Floor
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street
Wednesday, September 18, 2013**

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.
Horace E. Smith, M.D.
Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.

Board Members Absent:

Caswell A Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.

For the Department:

Bechara Choucair, M.D., Commissioner

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
September 18, 2013
DePaul Center, 333 S. State Street
Meeting Summary

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

Approval of Minutes: All Board members voted in favor of approving the September 18, 2013 minutes. Minutes approved.

Commissioner's Report and Healthy Chicago Update: Commissioner Bechara Choucair provided updates on the following items.

- The Healthy Chicago Monthly Update (in the Board packet and distributed to Chicago Department of Public Health's stakeholders) now includes updates about the work of Healthy Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Dr. Stephanie Whyte, CPS' Chief Health Officer, is facilitating this information sharing.
- The Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Board of Health are hosting four town hall meetings to obtain public feedback on policy solutions to curb the use of menthol cigarettes by Chicago youth. To date, three meetings have been held, with good attendance by many sectors of the public and experts in the field of tobacco control. A report presenting the policy recommendations that emerged from these meetings will be developed and presented to the Board at the next meeting.
- CDPH is holding its first flu clinic on September 22nd, 2013, at a church on the west side. We are working with partners who will be providing free influenza vaccinations at 64 events from now until mid-December. CDPH is working with partners to share health insurance enrollment information Chicago City Colleges.
- The 10th Annual Substance Use Recovery Walk will be held on Saturday 21, 2013 at 5131 S. Russell Drive. The 2.5-mile walk celebrates the hundreds of thousands Chicagoans who are in recovery and promote awareness of the need for ongoing substance use resources. CDPH will also be sharing information about HIV prevention, hepatitis awareness, and smoking cessation, and will offer free flu immunizations.

Comments from Board President: Dr. Carolyn Lopez welcomed students to the Board meeting, shared the history of the Board, and explained its role mission as an advisory body to the Mayor and Commissioner. Dr. Lopez also reflected on positive experiences from menthol town hall meetings.

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

- At the September 11, 2013, City Council meeting, Mayor Rahm Emanuel proposed an amendment to the Chicago Municipal Code to clarify language in the Recycling Facility Permitting Ordinance regarding the recovery of materials for fuel in energy production processes.
- At the September 11, 2013, City Council meeting, Aldermen Burke and Burns introduced an ordinance regarding "Alternative Nicotine Products."

- Mr. Stagg said that if the State of Illinois moves forward with its plan to create new standards for early childhood settings, it would be one of the first states to have comprehensive standards related to nutrition, exercise, and screen time. He reminded the Board that the catalyst for that innovative effort started in 2009 when the Board of Health adopted a joint resolution creating such standards for the City of Chicago. This was the topic of a policy brief recently published by the William Mitchell College of Law.

Presentation: Erica Salem, MPH, Deputy Commissioner, shared the numbers of uninsured in Chicago, which total over 500,000, including approximately 145,000 Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients, 33,000 disabled persons, and 40,000 children. To assist outreach and enrollment activities to these people, CDPH and Health and Disability Advocates produced the Enroll Chicago Report which maps the uninsured by different characteristics. CDPH has met with the organizations that will be conducting outreach and enrollment (funded by both federal and state grants). Ms. Salem also shared that CDPH is working to enroll at least 5,000 uninsured CPS students by issuing a grant to an agency that will engage community based organizations to reach these students. CDPH will also assist with information about the ACA to small businesses. In addition, CDPH is analyzing the priorities identified by local non-profit hospitals in their newly-required community health needs assessments with the goal of facilitating coordination and use of evidence-based interventions (as identified through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s The Guide to Community Preventive Services). CDPH is also involved with other health care reform efforts, including promotion of CountyCare and involvement on the Illinois Alliance for Health.

Board members had several questions and comments about health care reform:

- Dr. Rothschild inquired if the CPS grant would reach undocumented students. Ms. Salem affirmed that it would because undocumented children are eligible to apply for Medicaid.
- Dr. Dreher commented about the importance of CDPH working with businesses and chambers of commerce.
- Mr. Starshak mentioned that health care reform will have a mixed impact on hospitals, including less bad debt because more people are insured, but more Medicaid shortfalls.
- Dr. Lopez related a situation about two highly competitive parties that came together to create a partnership and how the partnership benefited both the parties and consumers.

Old Business:

Dr. Lopez opened the floor for Board members to debrief on the menthol town hall meetings.

- Dr. Dreher commented that the Center on Halsted meeting had robust discussions, a diverse audience, and compelling testimony from vulnerable groups in attendance. Dr. Dreher also brought attention to the two representatives from “fine tobacco stores” who offered to assist with under age cigarette purchasing.
- Mr. Starshak commented on the turnout of the menthol town hall meetings and how many of the people who attended were informed citizens of Chicago not just CDPH partners and businesses.
- Dr. Dreher suggested the importance of cessation, and how children start to smoke when they have parents who smoke.
- The Commissioner thanked CDPH staff who assisted with putting the menthol town hall meetings together and making them a success.

New Business: Dr. Bell shared information about Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and its impact in the African American population. Dr. Bell stressed the importance of prenatal care for pregnant women and the provision of vitamin A, choline, and folate to help combat negative effects of alcohol use. Dr. Bell also stated that Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is the leading cause of FAS and is associated with mental retardation and other learning disabilities.

Old Business: None.

Public Comments:

Ms. Badonna Reingold asked if clients enrolling in Medicaid expansion would be required to be in managed care. Ms. Sheri Cohen (CDPH Office of Policy and Planning) stated that managed care for the Medicaid expansion population will be rolled out in phases during 2014. The Commissioner encouraged people to access more information on the State of Illinois website.

Carol Southard, a nurse and cessation treatment specialist at Northwestern Memorial Hospital, commented that she attended the town hall meeting the previous night and that smoking is public health's most important issue, bigger than alcohol, cocaine, and heroin. Ms. Southard shared that we know how to help people quit smoking, but there are not many cessation programs in Chicago. Only one hospital in Chicago (Northwestern Memorial Hospital) offers smoking cessation classes.

Dr. Dreher recommended that everyone in attendance view the film "Escape Fire: The Fight to Rescue American Healthcare", a documentary about reforming the American healthcare system.

Dr. Irma Brooks Williams asked Dr. Bell about a correlation between Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and marijuana. Dr. Bell stated that he did not see this connection.

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting Adjourned at 10:18 A.M.