

Chicago Board of Health
Meeting Summary September 17, 2014
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street

Roll Call

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President
Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.
Victor M. Gonzalez
Joseph B. Starshak

Board Members Absent

Melanie Dreher, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.
Carl C. Bell, M.D.
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.
Horace E. Smith, M.D.
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.

For the Department

Bechara Choucair, M.D., Commissioner

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:10 AM.

Approval of Minutes: Approval of the minutes was tabled, as a quorum was not present. Minutes from August will be presented at the October Board of Health Meeting.

No official business occurred during this meeting due to a lack of a quorum.

Commissioner's Report and Healthy Chicago Update: Dr. Julie Morita, Chief Medical Officer, shared the following update.

- **Human Enterovirus – 68**

A cluster of respiratory illnesses among children is affecting parts of the Midwest, including Chicago. The virus causing this illness, Enterovirus-D68 (EV-D68), is in a group of viruses known as Enterovirus. Local media and parents throughout the City have expressed concern about EV-D68.

CDPH has produced a fact sheet that provides information about enteroviruses and the basic precautions people can take to stay healthy. I encourage you to read this information and to share it with your patients, friends, family and other colleagues who have questions.

Staff from our Communicable Disease, Immunizations and Emergency Preparedness Programs will continue to work closely with local healthcare providers to better understand EV-D68 and provide guidance or resources to help prevent the spread of illness.

Commissioner Choucair shared the following updates.

- **Opioids**

On September 16, 2014, Commissioner Choucair joined health officers from NYC and Boston for a briefing on Capitol Hill regarding the nation's prescription opioid epidemic. Commissioner Choucair shared with Members of Congress and the press the variety of initiatives happening here in Chicago to curb prescription drug abuse and shared information about why Mayor Emanuel is suing the drug makers who push these drugs.

Specifically, that after a year-long investigation, the City of Chicago has concluded drug companies engaged in deceptive practices:

1. They told doctors that these drugs were safe for long term use knowing very well that there was no evidence to support their claim and despite significant evidence to the contrary.
2. They intentionally downplayed the risks of addiction.

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Commissioner Choucair also made a visit to the White House to discuss the problem and potential solutions.

- **Convening of HIV Researchers**

On September 10, CDPH convened more than a dozen researchers and community representatives from Stroger Hospital, Ruth M. Rothstein CORE Center, DePaul University, AIDS Foundation of Chicago, Northwestern University, University of Chicago, Mount Sinai Hospital and Chicago Area HIV Integrated Services Council (CAHISC).

Dr. Christopher Gordon, Chief of the National Institutes of Mental Health's (NIMH) HIV Treatment and Translational Science Branch led a discussion of national research priorities, the changing research landscape, local research efforts and current and future research needs to inform and improve Chicago's HIV care continuum. The group expressed an interest in future meetings to inform local research and to collaborate on grants.

- **Rapid Expansion of Bicycle Infrastructure**

This month, Mayor Emanuel celebrated Chicago's new ranking as the second best city in America for cycling — up from fifth place two years ago. Bicycling Magazine, which releases these ratings, cited various reasons for Chicago's improved ranking, including Mayor Emanuel's plan to build 100 miles of protected bike lanes by 2015, the construction of the Navy Pier Flyover project and the success of Divvy, Chicago's bike share system.

- **Expansion of Safe Passage Routes++**

The new school year has begun, which has people talking about Safe Passage Routes for school kids. Over the last two years, crime on safe passage routes was down 20% and incidents among students were down 27% at the participating schools. This school year, CPS added 52 safe passage routes, expanding the program to serve a total of 91 schools.

Comments from Board President: President Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D. welcomed several dozen students in the audience. Dr. Lopez stated that the Board of Health serves as an advisory body to the Mayor and the Commissioner of Health.

Informational Presentation – CAPriCORN (Chicago Area Patient Centered Outcomes Research Network): Dr. Abel N. Kho updated the Board of Health on a collaborative effort to build a Chicago-wide clinical data research network. The initiative involves a large number of stakeholders who are being convened by the Chicago Community Trust.

Policy Update: Kendall Stagg, Senior Advisor, provided the following remarks.

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- **Welcome to Chicago: We're glad you're here!**

Just prior to the policy update, a delegation of physicians from Nigeria entered the Board meeting. On behalf of the City of Chicago, Kendall Stagg, Senior Advisor welcomed the delegation to Chicago. Mr. Stagg then proceeded to give the policy update.

- **BAKE SALE Act**

Reps. Ted Poe (R-Texas), Kristi Noem, (R-S.D.), and Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.) introduced the Bringing Awareness and Knowledge to Exempt Schools Against Legislative Encroachment (BAKE SALE) Act (H.R. 5417), a bill that would prohibit the Department of Agriculture from enforcing updated nutrition standards for school snacks and beverages with respect to school fundraisers.

Many local obesity prevention advocates have expressed concerns about what this means for the newly implemented nutrition standards and competitive food policies in Chicago Public Schools.

Mr. Stagg indicated “two steps forward, three steps back” is a typical dance in Washington, D.C. “We all know it takes time to get things done in Washington,” Mr. Stagg said. “This is why health advocates from Chicago pushed for action at the local level, too.” The competitive foods policy adopted by the Board of Education is, by far, one of the strongest such policies in the nation. It was implemented in advance of the new USDA rules, and it will remain solidly in tact even if the Department of Agriculture is blocked by Congress from implementing national standards.

- **Single Resident Only (SRO) Ordinance**

Mayor Emanuel has teamed up with Alderman Burnett and Alderman Pawar to preserve affordable housing options in Chicago. An ordinance, which is supported by a broad coalition of advocates for the homeless and low-income tenants, has been introduced.

It's known as the Single-Room Occupancy and Residential Hotel Preservation Ordinance.

Under the proposal, owners who wish to demolish or convert their properties to market-rate rentals would be required to do the following three things:

- 1) Maintain at least 20% percent of the building's units as affordable.
- 2) If they fail to maintain a 20% threshold, they must pay a \$200,000 “preservation fee” for every unit that falls short of that threshold. That money is earmarked for a program that will allow the City to help maintain and preserve SROs.

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3) Additionally, if an owner wishes to sell a building, it would allow non-profits first crack at purchasing it – building owners would be required to engage in good-faith negotiations exclusively with non-profits during the first six months that the property is on the market. If no sale occurs within six months of notifying non-profits, then the owner may attempt to sell the property to private developers.

- **Smoke-Free Parks**

The Chicago Park District — which is the nation’s oldest and largest park district — voted unanimously to go smokefree.

This policy was pushed by a large coalition of health advocates, including Respiratory Health Association who had been pushing for more than a year to get a smokefree parks policy passed.

The news has received national attention, most of it quite positive. And, it even captured the front page of the RedEye.

New Business: None.

Old Business: None.

Public Comments: The board entertained public comments. At which time, the public engaged in dialogue regarding the informational CAPriCORN presentation given by Dr. Kho.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:18 AM.

Next Board Meeting: October 15, 2014, 9:00 A.M.