

Chicago Board of Health  
Meeting Summary October 15, 2014  
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President  
Melanie Dreher, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N  
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.  
Victor M. Gonzalez  
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.  
Horace E. Smith, M.D.  
Joseph B. Starshak

Board Members Absent

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

For the Department

Bechara Choucair, M.D., Commissioner

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by Dr. Lopez, Board President. Notice of special time (due to Mayoral Budget Address) was posted in advance, as required by Illinois' Open Meeting Law.

**Approval of Minutes:** The August 21, 2014 and September 17, 2014 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Update from Commissioner:** Commissioner Choucair and Dr. Julie Morita updated the Board on the City's ebola response, which includes screenings at O'Hare; a network of hospitals prepared to accept ebola patients, if needed; outreach to local clinic and hospitals; legal preparedness; and public education. There are no suspected or known cases of ebola in Chicago at this time.

**Comments by the Board President:** Dr. Lopez welcomed the students of UIC School of Public Health and Medill. She thanked them for attending and for accommodating the earlier Board meeting time this month, due to the Mayor's pending City Budget Address at 9:30 am. Dr. Lopez proceeded to explain that the Board of Health was an advisory board that provides advice and council on health matters to the Mayor of Chicago and its Public Health Commissioner.

**Healthy Chicago 2.0 Conversation:** Jaime Dirksen, Deputy Commissioner, with the assistance of Jay Bhatt, Managing Deputy Commissioner, led the Board of Health and the public attendees through Phase 2 of *Healthy Chicago*. Ms. Dirksen explained that Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is conducting a citywide community health assessment and developing a health improvement plan. The feedback from the dialogue today will help identify goals and strategies for CDPH and other public health stakeholders to implement in order to improve the health of Chicago residents and communities. The planning process and implementation plan will have a special health equity lens to address disparities and inequities among vulnerable populations and improve health status for all. Ms. Dirksen then asked a series of health priority related questions to the audience and feedback was provided by both the Board of Health members and members of the public in attendance.

**Healthy Chicago Update:** The Commissioner focused his comments on the current Ebola outbreak. To-date there were 8,400 cases of Ebola in West Africa with over 4,000 deaths. It has been very bad in Nigeria as well as Liberia and Guinea. Ebola poses no significant risk to the United States. There are no cases of Ebola in Chicago. The airports are now screening any passengers who come from West Africa. The disease is only contagious if you touch the blood or body fluids of a person who is sick with Ebola or who has died from it. The Department of Health has distributed updated Ebola Fact Sheets and is currently working with the staff at 911, the Police Department, schools, churches, and community-based organizations to ensure the safety of the public as well as HealthCare Workers.

Dr. Lopez asked what the hospitals are doing to ensure the safety of travelers. The Commissioner stated a network of local hospitals are preparing and training to be ready if an ebola case occurs here. O'Hare has a section where the ebola screening occur and if any symptoms are present, passengers will immediately be sent to Resurrection Hospital

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Kendall Stagg presented to the Board Emergency Regulations for Isolation and Quarantine. He noted these regulations were necessary to clarify existing code provisions that provide the Commissioner of Public Health the authority under Section 2-112-080 of the Chicago Municipal Code to

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quarantine and/or isolate persons having or suspected of having contagious diseases that threaten the public health with an immediate and potentially server risk. This same authority was used during the City's last public health crisis with SARS, as it is essential that there be no gray areas for the Commissioner instituting certain orders to protect the public's health in times of an emergency. He added that these emergency rules will not continue into perpetuity, but that they will expire in six months, unless reauthorized by the Board of Health. The Emergency Regulations were unanimously approved by the Board and immediately adopted as of October 15, 2014.

**Public Comments:** A query was made to ensure the ebola information the Commissioner presented was shared with all schools. It was confirmed that such information was indeed widely shared with all Chicago school systems.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

**Next Board Meeting: November 19, 2014, 9:00 a.m.**