

Chicago Board of Health  
June 16, 2021  
Virtual Meeting  
By Remote Means

*Pursuant to applicable law, the President determined that an in-person meeting was not practical or prudent. Accordingly, attendance at this meeting was via remote means only.*

## Roll Call

### Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, MD, President  
Matthew Davis, MD, MPP  
Joel Johnson, MEd  
Janet Lin, MPH, MBA  
Rosa E. Martínez Colón, MS  
Steven K. Rothschild, MD  
Horace E. Smith, MD  
Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN  
Debra Wesley, MSW

### For the Department

Fikirte Wagaw, First Deputy Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Board President, Dr. Carolyn Lopez.

**Approval of Minutes:** Dr. Rothschild identified a correction to the May 2021 BOH Minutes. BOH members approved the minutes with this correction.

**Commissioner's Update:** Fikirte Wagaw, First Deputy Director, provided updates on several CDPH priorities, including that Chicago moved to Phase V of COVID reopening on June 11, 2021. Many restrictions were lifted, including mask mandates and capacity limits in certain situations. Masks are still required on public transportation, in healthcare facilities, in schools and other locations. Non-vaccinated individuals should still wear masks when they are indoors and unable to social distance. Over half of Chicagoans (53.1) have received a first dose of vaccine, including 33.4% of people aged 12-17 (i.e., >50,000). Vaccine completion rates vary by race/ethnicity, with only 36% of Black NL Chicagoans and 43% of Latinx Chicagoans getting their first dose. Community events are occurring to improve vaccine completion rates, most in collaboration with hyper local organizations, including block by block canvassing, at home vaccinations, and vaccination stations (CTA bus) in communities with the lowest vaccination uptake.

CDPH released the "State of Health for Blacks in Chicago" data brief on June 15, 2021, which presents data on Chicago's Black population health status, including the life expectancy gap between Black Chicagoans and non-Black Chicagoans, which is 9.2 years. The brief also shares data on root causes of inequities.

[https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/cdph/CDPH/Healthy%20Chicago/CDPH\\_BlackHealth7c\\_DIGITAL.pdf](https://www.chicago.gov/content/dam/city/depts/cdph/CDPH/Healthy%20Chicago/CDPH_BlackHealth7c_DIGITAL.pdf)

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CDPH is announcing the awardees for the Healthy Chicago Equity Zones (HCEZ) Regional Leads on June 17, 2021. This initiative will fund one Regional Lead organization for each of the six HCEZ that will oversee the community leads (community-based organizations in each of the zones' community areas). Each community-based organization will bring hyper-local organizations together to identify needs and assets in their community and develop and lead local strategies to confront the social and environmental factors that contribute to health and racial equity. This work will begin its focus on COVID vaccination.

**Board President Comments:** Dr. Lopez informed the BOH members that these meetings usually feature one presentation per meeting. However, CDPH is designing and conducting its strategic plan and wanted to share this information with the Board members. For future meetings, we will send out the presentations in advance to allow BOH members to review and send in questions prior to the meeting that could be incorporated into the presentation.

**Presentation: Strategic Planning:** Laurie Call and Samantha Lasky, from the Illinois Public Health Institute, presented the process by which CDPH is developing its five-year strategic plan. IPHI has been contracted to lead the development of this plan, which will apply an anti-racism lens and incorporate CDPH guiding principles of health equity, trauma-informed, cultural responsiveness, and dismantling racism. The resulting plan will develop CDPH's mission, vision, values and priorities with goals, strategies and objectives. The CDPH E-team will direct the execution of the plan.

**Presentation: Behavioral Health:** Matt Richards, Deputy Commissioner, presented CDPH's work on Mental Health, based on the Mayor's Framework for Mental Health Equity, which focuses on strengthening the publicly funded mental health system. As part of this, the mental health budget has tripled over last two years, which includes the following efforts:

- Funding 32 organizations (health centers, mental health centers, community organizations) as part of the *Trauma-Informed Centers of Care* project to provide more services in communities with the highest needs
- Investment in CDPH's five mental health clinics with physical renovations, use of telehealth services and launching child and adolescent services
- Integrating mental health professionals into 911 Crisis Prevention and Response, including staffing 911 for mental health-related calls, responding in-person to behavioral health crisis situations and linking to needed services
- Funding delegates to provide more community team-based care, with special focus on people experiencing homelessness and individuals with serious mental illness
- Addressing system coordination through: (1) Chicago Public Schools (Healthy Centered Framework), (2) operationalizing 211 system to access to resources, (3) awareness campaign to combat stigma and (4) coordination of City, State and Federal policy work, especially related to Medicaid reform.

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Board of Health members asked several questions to clarify the work and promote priorities of workforce development and proactive initiatives for children's mental health.

**Public Comments:** No public comments were submitted.

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 10:31 AM.