

Chicago Board of Health  
Meeting Summary: March 21, 2018  
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President  
Juan M. Calderon  
Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.  
Melanie Dreher, RN, PhD.  
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.  
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.  
Joseph B. Starshak

Board Members Absent

Victor M. Gonzalez  
Horace E. Smith, M.D.

For the Department

Julie Morita, M.D., Commissioner

Chicago Board of Health  
Meeting Summary: March 21, 2018  
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** February 21, 2018 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Commissioner's Update:**

Commissioner Morita mentioned that she looks forward to today's presentation given by the board of health members and reported in the past weeks; she had an opportunity to attend three out-of-state meetings:

- Big Cities Healthy Coalition Meeting, where leaders of America's largest urban health departments exchange ideas and address health issues unique. At this meeting the areas of priority: opioids, violence and STDs.
- Trust for America's Health (TFAH), in partnership with The California Endowment (TCE) meeting, attendees learned from programs like TCE's Building Healthy Communities initiative that promote health equity and develop policies to continue advancing health equity in diverse arenas.
- Airport Cooperative Research Program (ACRP) meeting, a forum on airport roles in reducing communicable diseases transmission.

In addition, Commissioner Morita reported the following:

*World TB Day.*

Today, CDPH is partnering with the Illinois Department of Public Health and the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing to host a World Tuberculosis Day event. The conference invites Chicago's healthcare providers to engage in presentations from national and local TB experts on current best practice guidelines for TB prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

*Curbing Teen Drinking.*

On March 12, Preventing Alcohol Abuse in Chicago Teens (PAACT) announced the release of the Voices of Youth in Chicago Education report, *Open Bottles, Broken Policies*, a youth-led Participatory Action Research project conducted to better understand the causes of underage drinking and inform policy recommendations for Chicago Public Schools (CPS) to respond to the root causes of the problem. CDPH participated in a press conference on improving school policy responses to underage drinking.

*Illinois Sodium Reduction Week.*

Last week, CDPH joined forces with the American Heart Association and public health agencies across the state to raise awareness of the importance of lowering dietary sodium. CDPH took part in the "Break Up with Salt" campaign, which involved a number of digital events including a healthy cooking demo, Twitter chat and video campaign.

*National Women & Girls HIV/AIDS Awareness Day.*

Sistas Uplifting Sistas sponsored a one-day conference, "The Time is Now," which focused on identifying the combined impact of racism, trauma, and inequalities on the health outcomes of women and girls. On March 14th, conference participants gathered information, tools, support, and affirmation to confront systemic barriers and to consider solutions and strategies to improve HIV programming specifically for women and girls, inclusive of transgender persons.

*Community Events Calendar.*

Last week, the Community Events Calendar went live. This calendar seeks to further direct engagement with city residents and CDPH staff by showing CDPH events, speaking

Chicago Board of Health  
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DePaul Center, 333 South State Street

engagements, public meetings and partner programs we support. These tools that will help residents connect with programs and services they can use to improve their own health and well-being. If you know of an event that should be listed please reach out to Angelica Alfaro.

**Comments by the Board President:** Dr. Lopez remarked, today is the first day of spring and welcomed students and all meeting attendees. She requested for students to introduce themselves and provided them with an overview of the board's history and explained the board's advisory role in matters of infectious disease and health issues affecting public health.

**Policy Update:** Jesse Lava provided the following policy updates:

***National***

- *Obamacare.* Many insurers are finally turning a profit on Obamacare, despite the repeal threats, the small window for signing up, removal of a subsidy program, and a number of steps the Trump administration has taken to undermine the law. However, a big reason for the improved profitability is premium increases. Those premiums could escalate in 2019 when the elimination of the mandate goes into effect. So the future of the Affordable Care Act remains dependent on what our lawmakers do or fail to do in Washington.
- *Nicotine.* The FDA is proposing a rule to lower the amount of nicotine in cigarettes to make them less addictive. Smoking causes 480,000 premature deaths annually in the United States, and reducing the addictiveness of the products could cut that number significantly. Some are raising questions about the black market and whether people would smoke more cigarettes to compensate.
- *Healthy kids' meals.* After McDonald's announced it would cut the sugar and calories in its Happy Meals, 51% of parents in a poll said it makes them more likely to order a Happy Meal for their kids—and among those who never order one, 34% are now more likely.
- *Opioid Plan.* President Trump has outlined a three-pronged approach to the opioid crisis:
  - 1) Reducing the demand and over prescription of opioids. This includes an advertising campaign to tell people not to use opioids illegally, R&D for preventing addiction and decreasing the need for prescription opioids, aiming to cut opioid prescribing by a third with a national Prescription Management Program and other federal leverage points.
  - 2) Cutting off the supply of illegal drugs. This includes secure borders (which may mean a wall), using tech and data to flag risky shipments, expand international cooperation with China and Mexico for supplying heroin, prosecute and sue companies and doctors as needed, crack down on online sales, increase penalties for drug dealing (including more seeking of the death penalty against dealers), making it easier to give a drug dealer a mandatory minimum, and ending sanctuary cities.
  - 3) Boosting access to treatment and recovery services. This includes supplying first responders with naloxone, improving overdose tracking, expanding access to medication-assisted treatment, change the law keeping Medicaid from reimbursing residential treatment at facilities with more than 16 beds, link people in the criminal justice system to treatment, screen federal inmates for addiction and place those who need it in reentry centers, and scaling up drug courts and supervised release as an alternative to incarceration.

***City***

- *Opioids.* CDPH and Mayor Emanuel announced a \$225,000 investment in community health workers to provide addiction education and naloxone to residents of the south and west sides while linking people with opioid use disorders to treatment. The funding went to the Chicago

Chicago Board of Health  
Meeting Summary: March 21, 2018  
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street

Recovery Alliance, and they in turn are working with Men and Women in Prison Ministries and Heartland Human Care Services to hire and train community members with lived experiences with opioid addiction as peer health workers.

- *Opioid lawsuit.* The City of Chicago has filed a lawsuit against three pharmaceutical distributors alleging they contributed to the opioid epidemic and violated state and federal laws by delivering unreasonable quantities of opioids. The three wholesale distributors are McKesson, Cardinal Health, and AmerisourceBergen, which together account for 90% of all revenues from prescription drug distribution in the country. These companies failed to report large orders that went against normal patterns and suggested the opioids were being misused. This lawsuit builds on the City's lawsuit against manufacturers that engaged in deceptive marketing practices with prescribers.
- *Manganese.* Mayor Emanuel introduced an ordinance on February 28 to reduce on Chicagoans' exposure to manganese. The proposed law will ban new manganese-bearing material operations and prevent existing facilities from expanding. These operations include crushing, screening, transporting, storing or handling of the material. Manganese is a naturally occurring element used in steel production. While very small amounts can be found naturally in soil, coal and other resources throughout the U.S., direct, ongoing inhalation of large amounts of manganese can be hazardous, particularly to the respiratory tract in the brain, with potential issues involving hallucinations, forgetfulness, headaches, nerve damage, or even Parkinson's or schizophrenia. In addition, manganese is a quality of life and economic development issue, not just a health issue. When excessive dust blows offsite from manufacturing plants, it keeps people indoors and discourages restaurants and other businesses from locating on the Southeast Side.

**Presentation:** Presentation: "Connecting with the Chicago Board of Health Members", Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., Joseph B. Starshak and Melanie Dreher R.N., Ph.D.

**New Business:** Juan Calderon, Board of Health member announced, he will be going to Puerto Rico with a delegation and will report back at the next BOH meeting.

**Old Business:** Dr. Lopez will report back on the BOH retreat.

**Public Comment:** None

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

**Next Board Meeting: April 18, 2018, 9:00 a.m.**