

Chicago Board of Health  
Meeting Summary: October 17, 2018  
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President  
Melanie Dreher, RN, PhD.  
Victor M. Gonzalez  
Juan M. Calderon  
Joseph B. Starshak

Board Members Absent

Adele Joy Cobbs, 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

Allison Arwady, MD., Chief Medical Officer

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:11 am by Dr. Lopez, Board President

**Approval of Minutes:** The September 2018 minutes were approved.

**Commissioner's Update:** Chief Medical Officer Allison Arwady provided the following updates:

**Mayor's Budget Address:** Commissioner Morita is unable to join us today as she is at Mayor Rahm Emanuel's final budget address annual budget speech and state of the city. We look forward to the CDPH budget hearing next week as we prepare for the 2019 budget.

**Tobacco Prevention Victory:** CDPH is thrilled to report that the passing of our new anti-tobacco law further cements Chicago's position as a leader in tobacco control and prevention. This law raises the cost of dangerous e-products, including JUUL, helping to dissuade more youth from ever trying these addictive products. Thank you to the Board of Health members for your support and advocacy.

**Influenza Campaign:** It's that time of year again – flu season! We have launched our annual awareness campaign, including transit, broadcast and digital ads in both English and Spanish. We are also hosting flu clinics in all 50 wards and you will hear about our Flu Clinic Finder, a web-based app, from our immunization program during the presentation portion of the meeting today. CDPH has also collaborated with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, aldermanic offices and various partners to host community events where residents can get their flu shot for no out-of-pocket cost. This year, 75 events are planned in all 50 wards.

**LGBT Health:** In honor of National Coming Out Month, CDPH and Project Vida hosted "Our Stories, Our Voices: Stories of coming out, triumph and courage" last week October 11th. The event was to share the heritage and diversity of Hispanic Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer lives. Earlier this year, CDPH released its first LGBT health report describing the health status of LGBT Chicago residents. CDPH's commitment to using data to inform decision-making is being recognized. This is a testament to our credibility to building a more equitable Chicago for the LGBT community.

**Request for Information - Healthy Chicago Survey:** On October 15, 2018 CDPH released a Request for Information (RFI) to update the methodology and administration of the Healthy Chicago Survey (HCS). CDPH's goal for the HCS continues to be to collect reliable, timely and representative data on root causes, health behaviors and health outcomes from adults living in the City of Chicago to enable residents and other stakeholders to use the data to describe and take action towards improving health and health equity. To this end, CDPH is seeking responses from a variety of organizations, including community-based organizations, survey administrators, researchers, data scientists, communications experts and any other with related expertise.

**Out of Darkness Suicide Prevention Walk:** On September 22nd, CDPH employees, family and friends participated in the Out of Darkness Walk to Fight Suicide organized by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP). The event was intended to save lives and bring hope to those affected by suicide. For more information and resources on suicide prevention visit AFSP's website.

**ACA Marketplace Enrollment:** The good news is that Chicago's uninsured rate is below 10%, less than half of what it was just a few years ago before the Affordable Care Act became law. The bad news is the ACA is under attack by the Trump Administration so we need to do all we can to ensure people know about their options and get enrolled. ACA Marketplace enrollment starts November 1st and runs until December 15th. During this time, people can enroll at [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) or make a free appointment with a Patient Navigator to help them pick the best health insurance plan for themselves and their family. The plans offered on [healthcare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) include the essential health benefits, including access to mental health services, prenatal care, free annual preventive visit and coverage for pre-existing conditions. People with incomes less than 400% of poverty may be eligible for discounts. Specifically, the Trump Administration has slashed funding for patient navigators and outreach activities. They are encouraging

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people to purchase short-term, non-comprehensive plans – that do not provide necessary coverage. We need to work together to inform Chicagoans how to get comprehensive health coverage and to help them access resources to get the assistance they need. Promotional material is available free of charge. We have fliers available for you to take with you on the table. If you would like more fliers, please reach out to Angelica.

**Comments by the Board President:** Dr. Lopez welcomed the students 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, Director of policy provided the following updates:

- **Tobacco.** The commissioner's update mentioned the new anti-tobacco law. I'll quickly give the specifics on the vaping tax. The e-cigarette tax has two parts: a tax on each milliliter of liquid with nicotine, and a tax on each container of liquid with nicotine. The previous tax was \$0.80 per container and \$0.55 per mL. The tax is now approximately doubled to \$1.50 per container and \$1.20 per mL. This effort is in response to evidence that youth vaping is snowballing.
- **Opioids.** Two months ago I reported that HHS at the federal level gave out hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to combat the opioid epidemic but excluded big city health departments. I'm pleased to report that Congress recognized our critical role and included an explanatory statement in the 2019 appropriations bill that calls on the CDC to make those funds eligible to local health departments. This was due in part to advocacy by our senators, as well as U.S. representatives from affected big cities across the country, after we discussed the issue with them. Now we are urging the Trump administration ensure the intent of Congress is carried out when the funding is put forward next year.
- **Public charge.** HHS has proposed changes to the "public charge" rule. In short, legal immigrants who are seeking a green card or other extensions in the U.S. would be more likely to be denied on the basis of being considered dependent on the government. Today, factors that go into determining an immigrant to be a public charge include being on Supplemental Security Income (SSI), TANF, and government-funded long-term institutional care. The new rule would now factor in use of SNAP, Medicare Part D (low-income subsidy), public housing, Section 8 vouchers, being under 125% of the poverty line, being a child or senior, having a limited education, and having a large family. This rule does not directly affect WIC recipients served by CDPH, but we are working with other departments and cities to oppose this change.
- **Funding shift.** More on HHS: The Trump administration is moving more than \$260 million from cancer research, HIV-AIDS prevention, and other public health areas to cover the cost of housing 13,000 undocumented immigrant children. This shift of funding within HHS comes on the heels of the Department of Homeland Security shifting \$200 million to immigrant detention.
- **Affordable Clean Energy rule:** On October 1<sup>st</sup>, Commissioner Morita attended the only public hearing in the entire country to testify against the EPA's proposed new rule – the so-called Affordable Clean Energy Rule – that changes regulations around pollution from coal power plants. The replacement would do little to protect health or the environment. The current Clean Power Plan embraces renewable energy and would significantly reduce emissions from power plants, improve air quality and protect public health in Chicago and around the nation. She not only represented CDPH but the public health departments of New York, Los Angeles, Houston, San Antonio & Las Vegas.

**Comments from Board:** Dr. Lopez added details to funding shift topic informing everyone that FEMA & Coast Guard funds were being directed to detention centers for children. She stressed the concern that in the coming

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future Medicaid and Medicare will be cut due to the administration's handling of the budget deficit. Juan Calderon relayed concerns of HIV/STI in the black community and suggested CDPH to coordinate hearing with the black caucus.

**Presentation:** "Immunization Program" by Marcia Levin MPH, Director of Immunization Program, highlighted CDPH immunization efforts in the city and stated that HPV cancers will be rare in a few years. Joseph Starshak, included that the \$45 million grant for VFCs 700,000 doses, CDPH saved \$64.29 per person. Overall, the BOH urged that this information to be publicized to highlight the value of CDPH's impact on the city.

**Old Business:**

Juan Calderon BOH member mentioned, he emailed BOH members (3) recommendations:

- Create a subcommittee to work with Director of Policy to formulate policy recommendations and shared annually with the Mayor and the Commissioner of Public Health.
- Discuss a change of venue for this year's meetings e.g. holding board meetings at different health department centers and communities.
- Invite the African American and Latino Caucus chairpersons of the city council to give a presentation/or discussion at BOH meetings that would include recommendations on all health related matters in Chicago's communities of color.

**New Business:**

Juan Calderon BOH member reminded the board to invite the Mental Health Advisory Board (MHAB) to a board of health meeting and to provide a CDPH mental health update. He also asked CDPH to respond to the FOIA request made by MHAB.

**Public Comments:** None

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 10:50 am