Message From The Commissioner

Every day, we work hard to implement Healthy Chicago in three key ways: public policy, program interventions and public awareness campaigns. This past month, we had one of our most successful public awareness campaigns in Chicago history when we launched ‘UnExpected’.

Featured on CTA buses and trains, ‘UnExpected’ uses provocative images of pregnant teen boys to catch people’s attention and spark conversations among adolescents and adults on the issue of teen pregnancy, to help remind us that teen pregnancy affects more than just teen girls. It also drives teens to our website BeYouBeHealthy.org where they can get information and resources on safe sex.

Since the launch, we’ve seen a huge uptick in traffic to our site. Our Twitter feed has exploded, with more than 25,000 unique tweets with a reach well into the millions. Furthermore, we’ve been featured in stories across Chicago and around the world, sparking conversations online, in print and on television. Just this past week, our campaign was a feature story on The Today Show, Good Morning America and The View (below) - leading to national conversations on this public health issue. But the real success will be seen down the road as these conversations, together with our innovative programs and policies lead to more adolescents having the information they need to make the best decisions for themselves.

Sincerely,

Bechara Choucair, M.D.
Healthy Chicago Implementation

- Chicago Public Schools (CPS) is working with elementary schools across the district to increase opportunities for students to be physically active for at least 60 minutes each day through a new initiative called 30+20+10, which includes 30 minutes of daily physical education, 20 minutes of daily recess, and 10 minutes of classroom physical activity breaks a day. Over 25 elementary schools have already committed to participating in this pilot during the 2013-2014 school year. In addition, Jones College Prep, Kelly High School, Marshall High School, Chicago Vocational Career Academy, and Manley High School will pilot four years of daily PE in the 2013-2014 school year.

- CDPH’s Vaccinate Chicago Week effort which took place late last year was the national winner of the Immunization Coalitions/Public Health/Community Campaign at the National Influenza Vaccine Summit held in May. The 2013 Summit Immunization Excellence Awards recognize individuals and organizations that have made extraordinary contributions toward improving adult and/or childhood influenza vaccination rates within their communities during the 2012-2013 influenza season.

- The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) announced that Illinois will receive resources made available by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to help seniors and people with disabilities live in their communities and receive care at home rather than at a nursing home. Illinois will receive a projected $90 million through the Affordable Care Act’s Balancing Incentive Program. States are eligible for the program if less than 50 percent of their long-term care spending is for home and community-based services.

- On May 10, Mayor Emanuel and CDPH Commissioner Bechara Choucair announced the expansion of a school-based vision program in CPS. Through the provision of funding in the 2013 City budget, nine additional doctors will begin providing school-based services and glasses fittings for students, and 30,000 CPS students who failed vision screenings in 2012 will have access to free vision exams and eyeglasses, if needed.

- A new partnership between the City of Chicago and Nike was announced this month to provide free basketball skills clinics across Chicago. The clinics, known as CHI LEAGUE, will take place at parks that host the Windy City Hoops program, and will run from June 15 to August 10 for youth ages 9-18.

www.CityofChicago.org/Health
In June, CDPH added updates to five different sets of public health information on the City’s Data Portal. The updates include community area estimates for causes of death, infant mortality, socioeconomic indicators and languages spoken. The data can be found at https://data.cityofchicago.org/. Public Health Infrastructure

On June 5, City Council approved the 2013 Bicycle Safety Ordinance to raise fines for cyclists disobeying traffic laws and double the fines for motorists who cause accidents by opening vehicle doors into the path of cyclists, called “dooring”. The ordinance includes provisions that bring the Chicago Municipal Code up-to-date to match the current bicycle safety laws of the State of Illinois. Obesity Prevention

House Bill 61 was passed on May 23, repealing an outdated law requiring health authorities to notify school principals of the names of the HIV-positive students. The law was first passed in 1987, when little information was known about HIV or its spread. Today, no other state requires principal notification. HIV Prevention

In late May, the Illinois Legislature passed Senate Bill 26 to implement the Medicaid expansion option for adults without minor children on January 1, 2014. This expansion was made possible through the passage of the Affordable Care Act. The federal government will pay 100 percent of the cost of coverage for the new Medicaid population for the first three years and will pay 90% after 2019. Illinois will now be able to provide health care to 342,000 more Illinois residents who currently don’t qualify for Medicaid. Access to Care

On May 22, 2013, the Illinois General Assembly passed House Bill 2675, a bill that amends the state’s Comprehensive Health Education Act (105 ILCS 110/). Governor Quinn is expected to sign the bill into law. Enactment of this legislation will require that medically accurate, developmentally and age-appropriate curriculum be implemented in schools that choose to teach sex education. Topics in comprehensive sex education include abstinence education, contraception, HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections. Adolescent Health, HIV Prevention

On June 5, the Chicago City Council passed an ordinance to prevent and control the spread of bed bugs in Chicago. The ordinance defines responsibilities of the landlord and the tenant, including a requirement for landlords to give tenants an informational brochure on bed bug prevention and treatment when they sign their lease. Landlords must provide pest control services conducted by a pest management professional until the bed bug problem is eliminated. Any items infested with bed bugs must be disposed of properly and be clearly marked to prevent further infestation. Non-compliance of the ordinance will result in a fine. Healthy Homes

Implementation Update - June 2013

Healthy Chicago Policy Highlights

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Healthy Chicago Implementation

- On May 22, Heartland Health Centers hosted an Open House to showcase their renovated health center at 845 W. Wilson, where 4,000 patients received primary care, mental health, and oral health services last year. Elected officials, community leaders and other stakeholders marked the successful transition of comprehensive primary care services from CDPH to Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Heartland Health Centers. Access to Care

From left: 10th District Cook County Commissioner Bridget Gainer, Heartland Health Centers Board Chairman Steve Rosemurgy and CEO Gwenn Rausch, 46th Ward Alderman James Cappleman and CDPH Commissioner Bechara Choucair.

Getting The Word Out

- On May 27 from 1:30-4:00 pm, Access Living and the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Department of Occupational Therapy are sponsoring a town hall meeting to discuss the state of health care for Medicaid beneficiaries with disabilities. The meeting will include a discussion of the results of a community-based participatory research study aimed at understanding the health care experiences of Medicaid beneficiaries with disabilities in Chicago, as well as break-out sessions. Please RSVP by June 20th by email to smagas1@uic.edu or by phone at 312-355-0906.

- On June 20th, Chicago State University is hosting a town hall, The Emancipation of Health Disparities: A Juneteenth Conversation, on health issues such as cancer that disproportionately affect communities of color. The public is invited to join in this important conversation on the elimination of health disparities. The free event will be held in Chicago State University’s library auditorium from 6PM-8PM, and will include dinner. RSVP by June 18th to nwatson@bsd.uchicago.edu or 773-834-9770. Breast Cancer Disparities

Healthy Chicago Grant News

CDPH received the following continuation awards:

- $117,000 to Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) for the Genetics Education Program.
- $430,800 from IDPH for the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program.
- $439,200 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for AIDS surveillance.
- $6.1 million from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) which provides housing or rental subsidies for low-income persons. with AIDS and their households.