

**Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health
Wednesday, January 18, 2023
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
DePaul Center
333 S. State Street, 2nd Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)**

I. Roll Call

Quorum was established based upon the following:

Present In-Person: Janet Lin, MD, MPH, MBA
Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN
Steven Rothschild, MD
Joel Johnson, MEd
Horace E. Smith, MD

Remote Participation: Óscar Iván Zambrano, MPH, MBA, CDM
Matthew M. Davis, MD, MAPP
Debra Wesley, MSW

Absent: Rosa Martinez Colón, MS

For the Department: Allison Arwady, MD, Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health

II. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Janet Lin, M.D. President.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The Board voted and approved the December minutes.

IV. Commissioner’s Update

Commissioner Arwady provided the following department wide COVID and non-COVID updates:

- **COVID-19 Updates:** Chicago remains at a medium level. CDPH continues to monitor wastewater surveillance. The sub-variant that is present in Chicago is roughly 14% of all COVID cases this week, with the east coast having up to 80% of its cases being this sub-variant. CDPH is closely monitoring China and the rise of cases occurring there, with the anticipation of possible new variants forming. Due to this rise, CDPH will continue to do wastewater sampling at O’Hare, with the screening of travelers that are coming from China. CDPH is continuing to push vaccinations to those who do not have the bivalent vaccine. We are still seeing lagging numbers in black and Latinx communities for vaccination, but overall improvement. We are above the national average for vaccinations except for individuals who are 65 years and over. CDPH has been upping the outreach in senior communities and promoting “Vax and Pax” (Vaccine and Paxlovid), the idea that those who get COVID should, additionally, get treatment. As it stands currently, Chicago is nowhere near needing a mask mandate.

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- **Ebola**: The Ebola outbreak, occurring in Ugandan, was declared over. Every traveler from Ugandan was screened at O'Hare and enrolled to be monitored for 21 days. O'Hare was one of five airports to funnel and screen these travelers. Dr. Stephanie Black (CDPH) and Christopher Shields (CDPH) appeared on Dr. Arwady's weekly Facebook Live to educate further on Ebola.
- **MICAH (Maternal, infant, child, adolescent health)**: The MICAH program participated in a new partnership with Harvard School of Public Health and CDC Program Evaluation Practicum. During the first week of the Practicum, teams met to participate in an intensive course in public health evaluation. In the second week, the HSPH students were onsite at CDPH where they worked with the FCC staff directly to create an evaluation plan for future implementation. At the end of the second week the students presented on their proposed plan. The project will culminate with the students submitting a finalized written evaluation plan. The program should receive the finalized plan in March.
- **Behavioral Health**: The Narcan at Chicago Public Libraries (CPL) program expanded to all 81 libraries in Chicago in December 2022. The program has distributed over 3,000 Narcan kits to the community. CDPH is now partnering with CPL to pilot Fentanyl Test Kit availability in five select libraries. Additionally, CDPH is currently finalizing contracting for public health vending machines, possibly consisting of Narcan, condoms, sanitation kits, etc. CDPH has started to engage faith-based organizations and aldermanic offices in harm reduction training and Narcan distribution. CDPH launched the Trauma Informed Learning Cohort effort in the 4th quarter of 2022. Four organizations were selected to recruit organizations to participate in Learning Cohorts that will learn about and apply Trauma Informed practices in their respective organizations. The MAR NOW program has successfully conducted over 100 home inductions of the medication buprenorphine, which treats opioid use disorder, with zero adverse events or termination from care due to suspicions of misuse or diversion. Allowing people to begin buprenorphine treatment at home without an initial in-clinic visit with a provider significantly lowers the barriers to this medication, which is crucial in the face of an unabating opioid crisis.
- **Disease control**: The Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) Conference is occurring this year and CDPH epidemiologists submitted a variety of different abstracts. Dr. Arwady briefly highlighted the abstracts that were submitted.
- **Migrant response**: CDPH continues to work closely various partners on influx of migrants, ensuring that the shelter and health needs are being met of those coming to Chicago. The State funding is ending at the end of January.
- **Point in Time**: Dr. Arwady highlighted the Point in Time (PIT) count, which happens once a year. Under DFSS, this is used to identify/count those who are unsheltered in one night, starting at 9pm and ending around 2-3am.

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Board Member Comments and Questions:

- **Dr. Rothschild:** Complimented CDPH on the communication. Requested to see the abstracts of the work being done by CDPH. Where are we with xylazine in Chicago? Is there a test strip equivalent for xylazine?
- **Dr. Smith:** How is 211 being communicated to the those in needs and would benefit from the services?
- **Dr. Lin:** Where are 211 and 988 resources located? What are these resources? Is CDPH aware of the extent of the utilization of Narcan in libraries? Stated interested in the public funded vending machines as a “one-stop shop” for various health needs.
- **Joel Johnson:** Has CDPH considered educating school-aged children on Narcan and use of it? Thoughts about potential requests of funding from the Opioid settlement from CDPH and Chicago.
- **Dr. Davis:** What CDPH’s sense of being able to measure the mental health and well-being of those in CPS schools? Is there something in the horizon on a way to measure this, alongside with CPS?

V. Board President’s Comments:

Comments regarding standing business and new business will be made after the presentations

VI. Presentations:

Title: TB Prevention and Care in Chicago: Current Approaches to an Age-Old Disease

Sylvia Dziemian

Program Director, Tuberculosis Program

Chicago Department of Public Health

Kathleen Ritger, MD, MPH

Medical Director, Tuberculosis Program

Chicago Department of Public Health

Board Member Comments and Questions:

- **Dr. Rothschild:** Asked a clarification question regarding a graph in the presentation.
- **Carmen Vergara:** Has the Tuberculosis Program thought of potentially contracting community nurses?
- **Dr. Lin:** Encouraged the modernization of the filing process. How much duplication of efforts are occurring between IDPH and CDPH? How are the populations that were not mentioned in the presentation being addressed, i.e. those incarcerated, those with HIV and NDR?

VII. Public Comments

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There were no public comments.

VIII. Standing Business

- Public Information Strategy: Reminded the board members to continue to bring up questions/points to be addressed.
- Policy Update: This will continue to be a standing item.
- Finance: Dr. Lin introduced this as a reoccurring conversation for the board to have on a regular basis.
- Diversity, equity, and inclusion: Dr. Lin emphasized the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion in workforce development, not only at CDPH, but also in the delegate agencies under CDPH. Additionally, Dr. Lin stated and encouraged that board members continue to highlight questions regarding this work. She requested that board members bring these questions to her directly and/or Ivonne Sambolin.

IX. New Business

There was no new business.

X. Old Business

There was no old business.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:27 am by Dr. Janet Lin.