

**Minutes of the  
Chicago Board of Health  
Wednesday, 06/21/2023  
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM  
DePaul Center  
333 S. State Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)**

**I. Roll Call**

Quorum was established based upon the following:

**Present In-Person:** Janet Lin, MD, MPH, MBA  
Joel Johnson, MEd  
Matthew M. Davis, MD, MAPP  
Debra Wesley, MSW  
Steven Rothschild, MD  
Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN

**Virtual Participation:** Rosa Martínez Colón, MS

**Absent:** Óscar Iván Zambrano, MPH, MBA, CDM  
Horace E. Smith, MD

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

**II. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am by Janet Lin, M.D. President.

Dr. Lin briefly addressed the fact that the BOH meeting agenda for June was not posted by the 48-hour requirement outlined in the Open Meetings Act- it was posted 24 hours in advance. This was due to human error and miscommunication over the holiday weekend. BOH and CDPH are revisiting action plan to grant more parties the ability to post minutes on the website to ensure this error does not occur again in the future.

**III. Approval of the Minutes**

The Board voted and approved the May minutes.

**IV. Commissioner's Update**

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

- Bureau of Health Protection
  - COVID-19 Updates
    - FDA's VRBPAC met on June 15<sup>th</sup> to hear manufacturer data and vote on the strain selection for the updated covid-19 vaccine composition for the fall.
    - The committee voted unanimously to recommend a monovalent vaccine for the 2023-2024 formula of COVID-19 vaccines in the U.S.

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- ACIP (CDC Advisory Committee) will discuss COVID-19 vaccines on June 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- Look up most recent data on COVID in Chicago:  
<https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid-19/home/covid-dashboard.html>
  - FDA Antimicrobial Drugs Advisory Committee (AMDAC)
  - AMDAC met to discuss a new medication- nirsevimab monoclonal antibody for the prevention of RSV lower respiratory tract disease in infants and children.
  - AMDAC voted in favor of recommending this new medication for both infants entering their first RSV season and children up to 24 months who remain vulnerable to severe RSV in their second RSV season.
  - FDA has the third quarter of 2023 as a target action date for decision. If the new medication is approved, it will be discussed during the October 2023 ACIP meeting.
- Bureau of Disease Control
  - West Nile Virus (WNV)
    - CDPH has confirmed the first West Nile Virus- positive mosquito batch in the City for 2023. IDPH confirmed the first mosquitoes to test positive for WNV in the state on June 1<sup>st</sup> 2023.
    - No human cases of WNV have been reported to date this year.
    - CDPH has a robust mosquito control program which includes treating 70,000 catch basins in Chicago with larvicide, collecting and testing mosquito samples every week, and spraying in specific geographic areas if indicated.
  - Wastewater
    - CDPH is leveraging wastewater for MPOX surveillance by testing wastewater samples at three levels pumping stations, eight sub-sewer sheds and one correctional facility.
    - CDPH is also leveraging wastewater for polio surveillance. New York has previously identified polio through wastewater.
    - CDPH started a surveillance project in March by collecting wastewater treatment plant samples while testing for COVID-19 and other respiratory pathogens. All tested samples have been negative so far.
  - Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist (CSTE) Annual Conference
    - CDPH staff to attend the epidemiologist conference in Salt Lake City, June 25-28
- Bureau of Community Health Strategy
  - Medicaid Redetermination

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- With Medicaid redetermination happening, people will lose coverage with the end of the public health emergency
- CDPH and experts from the Shriver Center on Poverty Law hosted a training for over 100 Response Corps members on the Medicaid Reenrollment process.
- The Chicago Community Health Response Corps focusing on chronic disease prevention and community health outreach, health literacy, and resource navigation.
- The Systems Change Collaborative is looking back at COVID times, at how to help people experiencing homelessness.
  - They came together to identify where policy changes, additional capacity and new investments are needed to strengthen systems of care for this populations with recommendations in areas including: care integrations, state and federal advocacy, homeless service systems, data systems, and funding and sustainability.
- Other Announcements
  - Pride Month: Another screening of HIV and the Journey Towards Zero documentary – June 26<sup>th</sup> at Museum of Science and Industry
    - Showing the trailer for Part Two of documentary
  - June 22<sup>nd</sup> is the last day to take applicants for Chicago Arts and Health Pilot
    - Chicago Arts and Health Pilot is a new incentive with DCASE to fund 10 artists from Chicago to be in an apprenticeship aligned with mental health clinics. They will get trained as Community Health Workers and other behavioral health trainings while working in clinics for art therapy and more.
    - Visit [Chicagoculturalgrants.org](http://Chicagoculturalgrants.org)
  - Chicago is 1 of 18 cities doing Heat Watch 2023
    - CDPH applied for and was selected to do hyper-local work to see how heat impacts the City and within communities differently
    - On a day that is the hottest and clearest, volunteers will put sensors on their cars and do a morning, afternoon and night trip to collect hyper-local scientific information
    - Visit [Chicago.gov/coolchi](http://Chicago.gov/coolchi)

**Board Member Comments and Questions:**

- **Dr. Rothschild:** Where is the boundary for the wastewater surveillance? Isn't the CC Jail in Cook County?
- **Dr. Rothschild:** Is there longitudinal data of West Nile Virus over the years – to reflect climate change, etc.?
- **Dr. Lin:** There is the Dengue virus in Florida- do we have that?
- **Joel Johnson:** How are Chicago cultural grants marketed?

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- **Joel Johnson:** Since we did not quite see fentanyl until it was already here, are we seeing anything with Xylazine?
- **Carmen Vergara:** Any changes in terms of budgeting since last month for the City?
- **Dr. Davis:** office space is at an all-time low- timely
- **Dr. Davis:** Is there a City health conference?
- **Dr. Lin:** Loved HIV and the Journey to Zero and the panel afterwards- very impressive in terms of history and timeline. Looking forward to part 2 and 3.

**V. Board President’s Comments:**

Comments regarding standing business and new business will be made after the presentation.

**VI. Presentations:**

CDPH Environmental Initiatives: Board of Health Briefing  
Megan Cunningham, Managing Deputy Director  
Dave Graham, Director of Environmental, Health & Safety Compliance

**VII. Public Comments**

There was one public comment from Judy King, addressing the fact that the agenda was not posted in time and that didn’t leave enough time to develop public comments and requesting that this not occur again in the future.

**VIII. Standing Business**

There was no standing business.

**IX. New Business**

There was no new business.

**X. Old Business**

There was no old business.

**XI. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:31am by Dr. Janet Lin.