

Chicago Board of Health Meeting
July 15, 2020
Remote Meeting

Pursuant to applicable law, the President has determined that an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent. Accordingly, attendance at this meeting was via remote means only.

Roll Call

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

Juan M. Calderon

For the Department

Jennifer Layden, M.D., Deputy Commissioner

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Board President, Dr. Carolyn Lopez.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the June 2020 meeting were approved by the Board.

Commissioner's Update: Dr. Jennider Layden, Deputy Commissioner, presented Board members with a detailed data report on the Novel Coronavirus and provided an update on the status of COVID-19 in Chicago. Board members asked Dr Layden a series of questions on Health Department's response on COVID-19. Dr. Layden provided Board members with an update on the emergency travel order. Dr. Layden informed Board members about upcoming public health decisions that were currently being reviewed regarding Chicago Public Schools. Dr Layden briefed Board members on contact tracing. Dr. Layden spoke provided Board members with an update about the Health Department's reporting of COVID cases to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Comments by the Board President: Dr. Lopez recognized Board member Dr. Smith for his recent anti-Tobacco advocacy work. Dr. Lopez also provided a brief background on the role of the Board of Health. Dr. Lopez explained the difference between an advisory board and a governing board and explained to the audience the Board of Health serves to advise the mayor of the city and the commissioner of health on matters affecting the health of the citizens of Chicago. Dr. Lopez also indicated to Board members that future meetings would continue to be via remote means and will continue to work with the Health Department to improve the telecommunications platform.

Public Comments: Board president Dr. Lopez indicated that public comments would be limited to three minutes and for future meetings individuals will be asked to provide notice if they are planning to make a public comment in advance of the meeting. Public comments were received from various representatives of the Slaughter Free Chicago organization who spoke about their advocacy group's efforts to make Chicago a slaughter free city, and urged the Board of Health to help them ban live markets. Board president Dr. Lopez reminded representatives, as was mentioned at previous meetings, as an advisory body, the Board of Health is not the appropriate body for the group to address their concerns, however indicated she would ask the Health Department for an update to be provided at the next meeting.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:15 AM.