

Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health Meeting
Wednesday, June 15, 2022
9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
DePaul Center 333 S. State Street, 2nd Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)
In Person Meeting

I. Roll Call

Board Members - Present

Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN
Joel Johnson, M.Ed
Janet Lin, President
Rosa E. Martínez Colón, MS
Steve Rothschild, MD
Debra Wesley, MSW
Oscar Ivan Zambrano, MPH, MBA, CDM

Absent

Horace E. Smith, MD
Matthew M. Davis, MD, MPP

For the Department

Megan Cunningham, Managing Deputy Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)

II. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Janet Lin, MD, President

III. Approval of Minutes

The Board voted and approved the May meeting minutes.

IV. Commissioner's Update

Megan Cunningham, Managing Deputy Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)

- The Commissioner shared both COVID and NON-COVID updates.
- During the summer months we are training our current contract tracing core members to be part of the COVID response but also violence prevention work and crisis recovery work.
- This is the Healthy Homes and Lead Prevention month for our Maternal Infants Child and Adolescent Health program. We are launching a major campaign that includes messaging about the importance of routine testing at 12, 24, and 36 months of age. It focuses on getting homes checked not only for lead but for other in-home health hazards. The messages are focused on public health priorities. This is a large-scale campaign. There will be radio ads, social media, CTA ads, palm cards and more. We are trying to invest public education and resources to make sure people understand the health hazards that exist in the home.

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- For the department’s Behavioral Health updates, we are now expanding services for mental health offering Narcan at 29 Chicago Public Libraries. We have hopes of expanding to a citywide coverage. The Mayor Lightfoot and Deputy Commissioner Matt Richards announced an expansion of the Trauma Informed Centers of Care Network. We are making an additional 3.1-million-dollar investment in twelve new organizations that will join the network. It will be comprised of fifty community health centers and community-based organizations that are providing care to all regardless of insurance status, the ability to pay, etc. The focus is to make care highly accessible.
- For environmental health updates, the department is committed to addressing the root causes of health in efforts to close Chicago’s life expectancy gap. Environmental health includes making sure that Chicagoans have pollution free communities. This is a critical part of our Healthy Chicago 2025 implementation strategy. The City has allocated more than 30 million dollars of federal recovery funds specifically for environmental justice focused initiatives to address issues in communities that are most vulnerable to pollution.
- The Commissioner presented Dr. Carolyn Lopez to outgoing president with a resolution from the Mayor’s Office.

V. Board President’s Comments

- Thanked to group for entrusting her as the new Board president.
- Welcomed Board members Debra Wesley, Dr. Davis, and Oscar Zambrano on their appointments.
- Masks are highly recommended but not required. There is no mandate but feel free to use them as you please.
- She congratulated Dr. Lopez on her retirement and thanked her for guidance and support during this transition.

VI. Presentation

Our Roots Chicago: Equitable Tree Planting Initiative and CDPH’s Role
Raed Mansour, Director of Environmental Innovation
CDPH Bureau of Community Health

The new initiative aligns with CDPH’s citywide community health improvement plan, Healthy Chicago 2025, goal to close the 10-year life expectancy gap between black and white Chicagoans by addressing the root causes of health. The presentation highlighted that all communities should have equitable access to environments that promote optimal health and well-being.

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To further the health of neighborhoods, the City of Chicago has adopted a “health in all policies” approach to make sure that the government works with communities to shape our social, economic, and physical environments in ways that promote health and racial equity. Urban Forestry aligns with improving neighborhood environments and is one way to address this vision.

The intersection between public health equity & tree equity meet at the correlation between redlined areas, PM2.5, Asthma, Social Vulnerability, Economic Hardship, Flooding Susceptibility, Surface Temperature, and Traffic and Tree Canopy. The initiative looks to prioritize planting trees in historically marginalized and underserved communities, equitably conveying ecosystem benefits to communities disproportionately impacted by the climate crisis.

- **Board Member Questions & Comments**
 - Rosa Colon Martinez – What is being done to make sure communities are aware of this initiative? How are you ensuring community representation? Where are the tools that you have located?
 - Carmen Vergara – Is there opportunity to participate in the working groups? Walking groups are always looking for the shade and may be interested in participating.
 - Debra Wesley – Blocks may be a good resource for educating the public about the initiative.
 - Dr. Lin – When building new housing, is there any obligation in the ordinance about the landscape for trees?

VII. Public Comments

There were no requests to make a public comment.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business.

IX. Old Business

There was no old business.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 am by Dr. Janet Lin.