

**Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health
Wednesday, November 16, 2022
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: Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN
Horace E. Smith, MD
Janet Lin, MD, MPH, MBA
Matthew M. Davis, MD, MPP
Oscar Ivan Zambrano, MPH, MBA, CDM
Debra Wesley, MSW
Joel Johnson M.Ed

Remote Participation: Rosa Martinez Colon MS

Absent: Steven Rothschild, MD

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 October minutes.

IV. Commissioner's Update

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

- **Infectious Disease:** We are currently back to medium COVID level, as of the CDC update on 11/10/2022. The City of Chicago, itself, would still be a low level, but the CDC calculates at a county level. We will continue to follow the results of the CDC calculation for Cook County and do what is recommended. Our pediatric hospitals are very full, mainly due to RSV. We are expecting that the flu will continue to make a strong presence due to the US trends that are occurring in Southeast. We are currently pushing flu vaccines hard, with the consideration that it takes two weeks for the vaccine to kick in. The push is focusing on ensuring that everyone six months and older are vaccinated for COVID and everyone over the age of five are getting their fall 2022 booster. We are continuing to host our family vaccination clinics in conjunction with City colleges. This initiative will continue through the month of December. CDC

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approved incorporating the flu vaccine in our “Protect Chicago at Home” campaign. CDC allowed this addition with the condition that someone in the appointment is required to get a COVID vaccine. There is a continuing push to promote this program, as anyone can schedule group vaccinations, up to 10 people from the age six months and up. Currently, more than two thirds of Chicagoans have gotten their updated COVID vaccine through pharmacies. With this continuing to be the main location of vaccination, we are continuing to ensure that pharmacies have all updated vaccines, including those for children. Dr. Arwady provided an update from a workshop that she, along with members of CDPH, attended at University of Chicago. The workshop was called Robust, Epidemic, Surveillance and Modeling (RESUM). This workshop focused on academic partners and how they can better be prepared, responsive, and aligned with public health needs in a crisis. The national science foundation has funded several projects looking at everything from wastewater surveillance, air surveillance to different approaches to modeling to different approaches to genomic work and variants. The intent was to bring together public health officials to help support, improve, and determine how these projects will be most useful before said project’s completion.

- **American Public Health Association:** Dr. Arwady attended the 150th APHA meeting, which was the first conference meeting since the beginning of COVID. The conference emphasized how decimated the public health work force has been and how many health officials are under attack in this highly politicized environment.
- **HIV/STI Data Report:** The 120-page report was just released online. This includes analysis on, not only, HIV and STI data, but how it is connected to other things that are impacting the community, where and where not we are seeing progress, and what we can continue to be doing.
- **Lead Report:** This report will be released shortly. CDPH’s epidemiologist are currently working on the traditional data reporting. Lead paint continues to be the major reason that children get lead poisoning. The City of Chicago continues to focus on basic lead service lines in the water pipes, but the higher priority, from a public health perspective, will be focusing on lead paint.

Board Member Comments and Questions:

- **Dr. Lin:** How can academic medical centers think about long-term surveillance? How can we improve our messaging around RSV? Some parents are afraid because they believe that they are going to die due to the misconception that RSV is like COVID.
- **Dr. Smith:** Why isn’t there a deliberate connection/link from institutions to the public? We need to maintain open communication in order to ensure public trust because there is a lack of awareness of what institutions are doing. Messaging and

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pro-active communication are central to reaching bio-groups that are adversely being impacted from various health issues.

- **Dr. Davis:** RSV is demonstrating itself to be very concerning. It is hard to educate parents, especially first-time parents, the effects of RSV and when to come to the doctors opposed to staying home. Additionally, there is concern about a high mortality with this upcoming flu season. The City of Chicago should put in place a weekly communication to continue to be transparent and educate about this upcoming flu season.
- **Dr. Davis Follow up comment:** There is often disconnect with those in academia and the public health officials, due to the lack of asking the necessary questions that are arising and are important in public health world. The idea of a communication council, consisting of council members from various neighborhoods in order to reflect the differing needs, was encouraged to be created.

V. Board President's Comments:

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

VI. Presentations

Title: CDPH Behavioral Health Programming Update

Mathew Richards, LCSW, MDW

Deputy Commissioner of Behavioral Health

Chicago Department of Public Health

Wilnise Jasmin MD, MBA, MPH

Medical Director of Behavioral Health

Chicago Department of Public Health

Title: Community Safety Coordination Center Overview

Gregorio Martinez

Interim Chief Coordination Officer

Community Safety Coordination Center

The presenters provided updates on CDPH mental health, Trauma-Informed Centers of Care Network, Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement (CARE), Substance Use and Recovery, Violence Prevention programs, and Community Safety Coordination Center Overview.

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Board Member Comments and Questions:

- **Dr. Smith:** Asked clarification on a statistic that was provided in the presentation. The City of Chicago should continue to prioritize humanizing those who are enduring this violence, instead of policing these communities.
- **Debra Wesley:** How do we connect the voices being affected by gun violence to the decisions that are occurring at differing levels?
- **Carmen Vergara:** How is the framework that CSCC is using connected to the Healthy Chicago 2025 initiative?

VII. Public Comments

- Sandi Brown (*CDPH*): Provided insight on the presentation schedule for 2023
- Christina Anderson (*CDPH*): Offered additional support on presentation schedule for 2023
- Teresa Lara (*Zing Health*): Inquired about the 211 services and what that meant for those receiving Medicare/Medicaid

VIII. Standing Business

- Mathew Richards (*CDPH*) provided explanation of the new 211, which will be introduced to the public in January 2023.

IX. New Business

- Next month everything will be done in person only with the exception of hybrid requests from board members. All board members will continue to adhere to policy procedures, following the three reasons for exemption from the meeting.
- Board members were asked to look over list of *CDPH* programs to determine the 2023 presentation schedule.

X. Old Business

There was no old business.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:39 am by Dr. Janet Lin.