

**Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health
Wednesday, October 25th
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
Joel Johnson, MEd
Rosa Martínez Colón, MS
Steven Rothschild, MD
Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN
Horace E. Smith, MD
Óscar Iván Zambrano, MPH, MBA, CDM
Debra Wesley, MSW

Virtual Participation: Rosa Martínez Colón, MS

For the Department: Fikirte Wagaw, MD, Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health

II. **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am by Janet Lin, M.D. President.

III. **Approval of the Minutes**

The Board voted and approved the September minutes.

IV. **Commissioner’s Update**

Acting Commissioner Fikirte Wagaw provided the following department wide COVID and non-COVID updates:

- **Public Comment Follow-Up**
 - Sign-in sheet at Mental Health Clinics
 - Neither HIPAA nor the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities Confidentiality Act (“MHDDCA”) are implicated by the sign-in procedure upon entry into the King Center.
 - HIPAA covers protected health information (“PHI”) held or transmitted by the health care components. The King Center is not one of the City’s healthcare components, meaning HIPAA does not apply to the King Center. As the King Center is not a health care component, the sign-in procedure and information requested do not meet the definition of PHI. As such, there are no HIPAA implications.
 - The MHDDCA covers confidential communications and records related to mental health and developmental disability services. The

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Act provides a precise definition for both “confidential communication” and “record.” The sign-in procedure does not fall under either of these specific definitions and, as such, there are no MHDDCA implications either.

- **Bureau of Community Health**
 - Chicago Environmental Justice Index
 - As part of Chicago’s first Cumulative Impact Assessment (CIA), the Office of Epidemiology announced that the Chicago Environmental Justice (EJ) Index is now available on the Chicago Health Atlas.
 - The Chicago EJ Index was co-led and co-designed by CDPH and the Office of Climate and Environmental Equity. The Chicago EJ Index identifies Chicago communities primarily impacted by pollution and most vulnerable to its effects based on environmental exposures and conditions, sensitive populations, and socioeconomic factors at the census tract level.
 - The Chicago EJ Index and EJ Neighborhood designation will inform decision-making in policy areas in addition to advancing proposed City policy and implementing practice changes.
 - Medicaid Redeterminations
 - On October 23rd, CDPH, DFSS, and the Shriver Center on Poverty Law co-facilitated its first Medicaid Redeterminations training webinar for the City’s homelessness service providers.
 - Based on federal projections, CDPH estimates that at least 180,000 Chicagoans may lose Medicaid coverage **by May 2024**.
 - The webinar focused on guidance to support people experiencing homelessness with Medicaid renewal and care connection resources.

- **Bureau of Behavioral Health**
 - Xylazine Test Strip Distribution
 - In October, CDPH distributed xylazine test strips. The strips test for xylazine, a veterinary tranquilizer found in fentanyl, which complicates drug overdoses.
 - Public Health Vending Machines
 - In October, five public health vending machines will go live in the city and increase access to harm reduction supplies to communities most affected by the opioid crisis.
 - Harm Reduction and Drug Checking Services RFP

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- The opportunity funds up to four providers for conducting overdose prevention street outreach and drug checking services to combat opioid overdoses in the city.
 - Aldermanic Harm Reduction Training
 - CDPH partnered with a total of 11 Aldermanic offices to provide training in harm reduction, Narcan, and additional resources for their communities.
- **Bureau of Health Protection**
 - Emergency Use Authorization of Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine
 - On October 3rd, the FDA authorized the use of Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine Adjuvanted, monovalent XBB.1.5 for persons 12 and older.
 - The vaccine is automatically included within the recent ACIP COVID-19 recommendations and will not require a vote.
 - Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine, Adjuvanted (original monovalent) is no longer authorized for use in the United States.
 - CDC notice via the Health Alert Network (HAN)
 - Issued recommendations for healthcare settings currently experiencing shortages of nirsevimab prioritize available 100mg doses to infants <6 months and select groups of older babies who have certain risk factors.
 - Recommendations for 50mg doses of nirsevimab remain unchanged.
 - New Arrivals Immunizations
 - In response to the migrant crisis, the CDPH Immunization Program developed an operational plan to provide COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations to new arrivals at 26 shelters and 23 police stations.
 - Family Vaccination Events at Colleges
 - CDPH kicked off Flu/COVID vaccination events at City Colleges of Chicago, with the first held at Wright College and every Saturday through December 9th.
- **Contracts, Finance, Grants & Development**
 - CDPH Budget Hearing for 2024
 - CDPH's Overall budget increased by 9% from 2023 to the proposed 2024 budget.
 - 30 CDPH positions were added to the Corporate Fund.

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Board Member Comments and Questions:

- Regarding the public comment follow up – did the compliance officer investigate the HIPAA violation concerns as it relates to clinics adjacent to the King Center.
 - Additional investigation is required.
- Regarding the flu/COVID-19 vaccination operation for new arrivals – will other vaccines be provided to young adults?
 - The current healthcare system provides new arrivals access to comprehensive care through the appropriate channels. The vaccine events held at shelters and police districts will be specific to flu/COVID-19 vaccines.
- Regarding the increase in dollars in the City’s Treatment Not Trauma initiative – are there other dollars redirected for the effort or is it all new money?
 - The funding is all new money.
- Requested to clarify if there was a 9% increase or decrease in the CDPH 2024 budget.
 - The budget increased by 9%.
- Are there any estimates to how many Chicagoans, specifically the vulnerable population, are dropping off due to Medicaid redetermination?
 - Data pertaining to that specific population is unavailable but can investigate the request.

V. **Board President’s Comments:**

Dr. Lin expressed that the Board supports CDPH through the transition period and uplifts the department’s efforts in the population’s health.

- Dr. Horace Smith raised the question as to what the board can do to further amplify the Board’s impact on communities in addition to the existing work?
 - Dr. Rothschild suggested understanding the scope of the board’s advocacy in CDPH and how that plays into the public.
 - Dr. Horace Smith suggested continuous involvement with aldermanic offices to reach people in communities versus spotlighting and redirecting efforts during a crisis.

VI. **Public Comments**

There was one public comment advocating for an increase in CDPH funding. The comment expressed a financial budgetary increase for CPDH to rebuild and protect the local public health infrastructure. Increased CDPH funding would alleviate financial public health barriers and aid in mitigation efforts that protect vulnerable populations and Chicagoans.

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VII. **Standing Business**

There was no standing business.

VIII. **New Business**

There was no new business.

IX. **Old Business**

- Request for follow up on the HIPAA violations public comment as it relates to clinics adjacent to the King Center.
- Received a thank you letter from the family of Iris Shannon for the letter of service recognition.
- Request for additional Board of Health role clarification addressed by the Ethics Office.

X. **Presentation:**

Department: City of Chicago Board of Ethics

Title: Ethics in City Government Appointed Officials

Speaker: Steve I. Berlin, Executive Director

XI. **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 am by Dr. Janet Lin.