

Chicago Board of Health
July 19, 2021
Virtual Meeting
By Remote Means

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

Roll Call

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, MD, President
Matthew Davis, MD, MPP
Joel Johnson, MEd
Janet Lin, MPH, MBA
Rosa E. Martínez Colón, MS
Horace E. Smith, MD
Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN
Debra Wesley, MSW

For the Department

Allison Arwady, MD, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am by Board President, Dr. Carolyn Lopez.

Approval of Minutes: BOH members approved the June meeting minutes.

Commissioner's Update: Dr. Arwady provided an update on CDPH's strategic planning process. She clarified that strategic planning work will gather feedback from CDPH staff and external partner organizations that are directly impacted and involved in the implementation of CDPH's strategy, plans, and actions. Dr. Arwady also shared information about the Narcotics Arrest Diversion program where individuals who are arrested for substance use violations are offered a treatment option in lieu of criminal charges (depending upon program qualifications). This program, which began in 2018 in the 11th District, recently expanded to 11 more districts, and will expand to all Chicago police districts by the end of the year. Dr. Arwady also shared the most recent updates on COVID-19 data and efforts. For information, go to: <https://www.chicago.gov/coronavirus>.

Board President Comments: Dr. Lopez thanked all Board Members for their participation on these meetings. The next Board meeting (August) may be held in person. Dr. Lopez will let Board members know in advance to allow for planning.

Legislative and Policy Update: Jesse Lava, Director of Policy, shared several updates, including local efforts (the Chicago Food Equity Agenda and the Healthy Chicago Equity Zones) and state efforts (Illinois Health Care and Human Service Reform Act, which allows for many efforts, including Medicaid payment for some Community Health Worker efforts).

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Presentation: Maternal, Infant, Child, and Adolescent Health (MICAH) Bureau: Jennifer Vidis, Deputy Commissioner, presented CDPH's work taking place in the MICAH bureau. These efforts support the goal of Healthy Chicago 2025 as infant mortality is one of the leading causes of the Black-white life expectancy gap in Chicago. CDPH programs include: WIC, school-based health services (vision, oral health, sexual health), lead poisoning prevention and Healthy Homes, and Family Connects. Jen Vidis shared a more comprehensive discussion of Family Connects, which is a new program to CDPH, and is an evidence-based universal newborn support system to reach all families and customize responses to individual needs. Family Connects engages with a community advisory board, conducts case conferences on individual families and community needs, conducts post visit conferences, and reviews data. Current pilot hospital partners: Mt Sinai, Humboldt Park, Rush, and University of Chicago Medicine. CDPH nurses are delivering services at all these hospitals, except at Rush, where their nurses are doing these services. Family Connects runs a Citywide Advisory Council and Regional Community Alignment Boards and ultimately works with many partnerships to improve maternal and child health outcomes.

Jen Vidis asked Board Members for ideas on how to engage health providers to promote and increase the parents' acceptance of the Family Connects program. Board members shared ideas of connecting with the provider associations, birthing centers, and other services/programs that interact with pregnant and new families.

Public Comments: No public comments were submitted.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:32 AM.