

Chicago Board of Health
Meeting Summary August 16, 2017
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street

Roll Call

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President
Melanie Dreher, RN, PhD.
Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., D.D.S., MPH
Victor M. Gonzalez
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.

Board Members Absent

Joseph B. Starshak
Horace E. Smith, M.D.

For the Department

Julie Morita, M.D., Commissioner

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by Dr. Lopez, Board President.

Approval of Minutes: The July 2017 minutes were approved.

Commissioner's Update: Commissioner Morita reported the following:

Charlottesville

On behalf of CDPH and the City of Chicago, on what occurred in Charlottesville, Virginia this past weekend and what has been a shameful stain on our nation's history: We condemn white supremacy, racism and bigotry in all forms. Chicago and CDPH will continue to stand strong in the face hatred. We know that discrimination, segregation and racism adversely impact health and this is one of the many reasons we continue to focus on equity and health equity. As we continue to work across diverse communities, it is important to acknowledge that communities with the greatest need are often impacted the most by racism --- instead of allowing for the interruption of progress, let's stand together to interrupt racism.

As one of our great civil leader's Rosa Parks said, "Racism is still with us. But it is up to us to prepare our children for what they have to meet, and, hopefully, we shall overcome."

BOH members requested an electronic copy of Commissioner Morita's opening statement on the Charlottesville.

All Staff Development

The 2017 All Staff Development Conference will be taking place, tomorrow, Thursday, August 17th at Little Village High School. This year's workshops are Healthy Equity and Cultural Awareness, Trauma-Informed Practices, Healthy Living and Professional Development.

Environmental

In July, CDPH, IEPA and Alderwoman Garza hosted a community forum to discuss manganese and other environmental concerns. On Monday, August 7th, I along with Assistant Commissioner Dave Graham and Alderwoman Garza held a press conference announcing that the City of Chicago and CDPH will broaden our investigation of companies that emit toxic manganese dust on the city's Southeast Side. CDPH garnered a lot of media attention.

West Nile Virus

As of late July, the risk of human West Nile virus infection in the City of Chicago is increasing. Residents are urged to take precautions against getting mosquito bites. Surveillance crews continue to monitor catch basins to assess the level of larvacide efficacy and continue larval and adult mosquito control efforts.

Immunization

CDPH kicked off our annual to back-to-school campaign including a city-wide ad campaign; before school starts in September. We provide children's vaccines at community health fairs, school, and church events. There are no out-of-pocket costs for children or their parents to receive vaccines.

Play Streets Week

On Saturday, July 29, 2017, Commissioner Morita joined Alderman Santiago, Assistant Majority Leader Representative Arroyo, and community leaders to launch PlayStreets Week 17 celebrating an important

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milestone-serving 100,000 participants over the past 6 years. CDPH received favorable media attention.

Healthy Kids Townhall Meetings

CDPH has hosted four of the five Healthy Kids Townhall meetings, the final meeting is tonight at 5:30pm at the Legler Branch Library located 115 S. Pulaski Road in West Garfield Park. You are welcome to join and invite community members to provide feedback. Thus far residents and community leaders have expressed full support for the policy proposals we have presented, including increasing the number of lead inspections.

BOH members requested a copy of the final report for all Townhall meetings.

Comments by the Board President:

Dr. Lopez welcomed students and provided an overview of the board's history and explained the board's advisory role in matters of infectious disease and health issues affecting public health. Recently, she saw a television ad about smoking that profiles the African-American community and thought of Trinity Health Systems' initiative to stop profiling and will bring it to the BOH members. She thanked Commissioner Morita for her opening comments. Dr. Lopez mentioned the people involved at Charlottesville are being identified through the use of social media and some are losing their jobs and even being disowned by their families. Lastly, good people that remain silent need to stop being silent. We need to stay informed, educate ourselves, overcome fears and - know the truth.

Presentation: "Office of Student Health and Wellness," Dr. Kenneth L. Fox, Chicago Public Schools, Chief Health Officer.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Comment: Sarah Parchem, CDPH Program Director of Adolescent Health and Ernestine Perez, CPS School Health Officer mentioned that CPS offers students comprehensive sex and bullying health education. In addition, CPS offers safe support for LGBTQ students by collaborating with partner organizations to develop transgender and gender nonconforming awareness and advocacy training.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:19 a.m.

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, September 20, 2017, 9:00 a.m.