

Chicago Board of Health
Meeting Summary January 20, 2016
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.
Horace E. Smith, M.D.
Joseph B. Starshak

Board Members Absent

Carl C. Bell, 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 December 2015 minutes were unanimously approved.

Commissioner's Update: Commissioner Morita wished everyone a Happy New Year and reported some 2015 CDPH highlights:

- The city's HPV vaccine coverage levels are higher than the national average.
- Smoking rates among teens in Chicago are at a historic low.
- New HIV infections in the city decreased for the 13th year in a row.
- Thousands of students are being served by our school-based vision, dental, STI prevention and restorative practice programs.
- Food Protection Program tested and implemented a new predictive model to identify restaurants that are more likely to have serious violations.
- CDPH coordinated several multi-program responses to public health threats: meningococcal disease outbreak among MSM, a cluster of opioid overdoses, and a gasoline leak on the west side.
- Our public health nursing is achieving caseload like never before.
- The department published the first Healthy Chicago Survey.
- New innovative mental health and support programs were started for Chicago's most vulnerable like childhood victims of sexual assault and family members of victims of homicides
- Several new grants were received to expand CDPH's work with adolescent health and HIV prevention.
- A Cultural Leadership Team was formed to improve our workplace culture.
- Nearly 70 vacancies were filled, including many frontline field staff, supervisors and managers.
- A CDPH departmental budget was created and aligned with our department strategies.

Please see the Healthy Chicago update which includes additional details on some of these achievements.

In addition, Dr. Morita reported the following:

Healthy Chicago 2.0 (HC 2.0)

Healthy Chicago 2.0 plan is currently being finalized and the release date is forthcoming.

Institute of Medicine (IOM)

In early January, Dr. Morita attended the first of 5 IOM committee meetings. This committee was sponsored by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to issue a report at the end of the year which is focused on identifying community solutions to address health equity. The members of the committee have expertise in hospital systems, international, state, and local public health departments and foundations, education, sociology, criminal justice, business and bioethics. Participating on this committee validated the work of HC 2.0, our action areas and our focus on social determinants of health.

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Transitions

Nanette Benbow, Deputy Commissioner for the STI/HIV Bureau, has announced that she will be leaving the department at the end of January. Nanette has been an incredible asset to CDPH and the city as she helped to incubate the department's first epidemiology unit and later went on to lead the STI/HIV bureau using her passion for data to ensure our work was focused on improving the population health of the city.

Dave Kern has been selected as CDPH's new Deputy Commissioner for the STI/HIV Bureau. Dave, as he worked as Director of HIV Prevention at CDPH from 2003 to 2006. After leaving CDPH, Dave worked in Washington, D.C. at the National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors, and most recently served at the Washington State Department of Health, where he oversaw that state's efforts to prevent HIV, viral hepatitis and other STIs. Dave will start today which allows for a smooth transition in leadership.

Test for Radon

January is National Radon Action Month and CDPH is encouraging Chicagoans to test their homes for harmful levels of radon. CDPH issued a press release that includes information on how to test, find a qualified radon professional or obtain a test kit is available the EPA or a Cook County Radon hotline.

Name Change

The Bureau of Women and Children's Health and our Office of Adolescent Health is being combined into the new CDPH Bureau of Maternal, Infant, Child and Adolescent Health, or MICHAH and by streamlining programs and policies CDPH targets the entire family and serves all of our constituents and age groups.

Healthy Communities Challenge

Chicago is one of 20 communities participating in President Obama's Healthy Community Challenge to reduce the population of uninsured during the current Affordable Care Act (ACA) open enrollment period—November 1 through January 31. Chicago's efforts are coordinated in close collaboration with great Federal, State, City, and community partners. Chicago is currently ranked #2 (and surging) with 11 days left in Open Enrollment; 278,687 consumers in Chicago selected or were automatically enrolled in a private insurance Marketplace plan.

Lastly, Commissioner Morita reported, that today is Policy Director, Jesse Lava's birthday and wished him a most happy celebration.

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Comments by the Board President: Dr. Lopez wished everyone a Happy New Year and excited to hear all the new developments. Dr. Lopez also welcomed students and a member of the public 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.

Policy Update: Jesse Lava provided the following policy updates:

- In December, the City Council passed a measure to double the penalties for retail tobacco dealers who sell illegal cigarettes. All cigarette packs should have tax stamps from the city, county, and state to verify that taxes are being paid, but some business owners have been failing to comply with the law. The new ordinance increases fines from \$1,000 to \$2,000 for a first offense and from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for subsequent offenses. If more than 40 unstamped packs are found, fines are even higher. Repeat offenders also face revocation of their tobacco license and a one-year tobacco sales ban.
- Mayor Emanuel has introduced a groundbreaking tobacco reform package in City Council to curb use among youth and young adults and will be deferred to the tobacco team's presentation for further details.
- The Chicago-Cook Task Force on Heroin is set to have its first meeting this month. CDPH is participating in the task force and will contribute to the understanding of the heroin epidemic as a public health problem. The task force will meet periodically in the coming months to craft policy recommendations to reduce opioid use disorder and overdoses for the city and county.

Presentation: Tobacco Control in Chicago: "Where We've Been and What's Ahead," presented by Melissa Buenger, Policy Analyst, Jennifer Herd, Senior Health Policy Analyst and Donna Scrutchins, Program Director.

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Public Comment: Board member, Dr. Melanie Dreher asked if suicides among middle class Caucasians can be discussed in the near future. She will forward the paper on this subject to Charles Watkins, Policy Analyst for dissemination to all board members

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

Next Board Meeting: February 21, 2016, 9:00 a.m.