

Minutes of the  
**Chicago Board of Health Meeting**  
**Wednesday, April 20, 2022**

9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.  
DePaul Center  
333 S. State Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)  
In-Person Meeting

**I. Roll Call**

Quorum was established based upon the following:

**Present:** Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN  
Carolyn C. Lopez, MD, President  
Debra Wesley, MSW  
Horace E. Smith, MD  
Janet Lin, MD, MPH, MBA  
Joel Johnson, M.Ed  
Matthew M. Davis, MD, MPP  
Rosa E. Martinez Colón, MS  
Steve Rothschild, MD

**For the Department**

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

**II. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President.

**III. Approval of Minutes**

The Board voted and approved the April meeting minutes with corrections.

**IV. Commissioner's Update**

Deputy Commissioner Megan Cunningham served as a proxy in the absence of Commissioner Arwady and provided the following department wide COVID and non-COVID updates:

- Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH) is required by state law to our local health department certification. It was completed for the period 8/29/2021-8/28/2026. CDPH received special mention for being leader among state health departments in our efforts towards equity.
- The department recently celebrated National Public Health week, April 4<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>. There was a specific focus this year on World Health Day and Global health around vaccination and vaccine equity. CDPH cosigned a letter with health departments

worldwide regarding increasing vaccination in the global south and low income countries.

- The department is taking steps to reappoint two members of the Board Debra Wesley and Matthew Davis. The Board also expects to welcome Oscar Zambrano as a new member. Additionally, Dr. Lin will be stepping into the role of president as Dr. Lopez term comes to an end and she retires. These names have been submitted to the Mayor's office for vetting and City Council approval.
- CDPH continues to be focused on how to expand access to trauma-informed Behavioral Health care services across the City of Chicago and particularly in neighborhoods that are most underserved. The department has advanced efforts recently on April 8<sup>th</sup> through a release of Building a Network of Trauma-Informed Centers of Care citywide RFP. The deadline to apply is May 9<sup>th</sup>. The contract is set to begin June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- The City of Chicago has launched a Surveillance Camera registration program. This is a free and voluntary program open to anyone who lives in the City of Chicago that has a camera that faces the public way. You can register camera with Chicago Police Department and they can use it to help solve crime.
- Chicago's current COVID-19 risk level remains low. We still encourage people to stay up-to-date with their vaccine and get tested if they have symptoms. We believe that is why we have seen a limited impact on healthcare. There may have been an increase in test positivity recently, however, we attribute that to spring break.
- CDPH continues its effort to increase vaccination rates particularly among Black Chicagoans. Over the past month, Black Chicagoans have led on first and second dose. The reason the gap is starting to close is due to an intensive focus on CDPH's call center.
- The department is also launching Dr. Taylor's Table, a bi-weekly live Instagram series on Thursday's at 6:00 pm. The conversations will be about racial health and wellness equity.
- CPS has launched its search for a new Chief Health Officer, which is the lead health authority for CPS.

#### **Board Member Comments & Questions:**

- **Carmen Vergara** – Camera Registration: Are other cities a part of the program or have similar programs? Do residents have the right to grant or deny access?
- **Dr. Rothschild** – What is your legal authority to enforce mask on transit?

#### **V. Board President's Comments**

- Dr. Lopez welcomed the group back to in-person meetings. She encouraged members to participate on the Ecosystem announced by Sheri Cohen that focuses on Policy and Systems Change. Dr. Lopez expressed the importance of being actively involved and being a consumer of first hand experiences (raw data) instead of the high-level overviews that can be provided by presentations.

## **VI. Presentation**

Jacqueline Tiema-Massie, DrPHc, MPH

Director of Public Health Operations/Immunization Program Director

Chicago Department of Public Health/Immunization Program

Title: Immunization Program Update – Vaccine Preventable Diseases

The Immunization Program optimizes immunization access and works to decrease the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases by increasing immunization coverage levels for children, adolescents, and adults in Chicago. The program has the following goals, objectives, and activities to: (1) increase access to vaccines, (2) improve Chicago Vaccines for Children (VFC) by conducting site visits to ensure that providers are compliant with national vaccine handling and storage requirements, (3) increase the use of IIS (Immunization Information System) data sharing to obtain clinic-level immunization coverage level reports and vaccine dose level accountability (4) implement surveillance and outbreak controls, and (5) conduct provider outreach and education efforts.

### **Board Member Comments & Questions:**

- **Dr. Davis** – Workforce Staffing: How do we carry the work forward using resource workers possibly instead of social workers? How do we mitigate the vacancies? What is the sustainability, \$1000 per vaccine isn't sustainable? Maybe cost could go down with government support.
- **Joel Johnson** – Workforce Staffing: What strategy can we use to build a pipeline to workforce challenges such as working with high schools? What role does this Board play?
- **Dr. Rothschild** – Parents can't take time off work to quarantine, what can be done to contextualize? What percent of kids get their vaccine by age two?
- **Dr. Lin** – What investments are being made in sustainability? Is there legislation that could cause problems with continued efforts?
- **Debra Wesley** – Is there a way to connect to the One Summer Chicago and create messaging to that group for employment opportunities?

## **VII. Public Comments**

There were no public comments for this meeting.

## **VIII. New Business**

There was no new business for this meeting.

## **IX. Old Business**

Update provided regarding the AIDS Foundation Chicago letter to the Board of Health about the timeliness of City delegate agency payments and the lengthy contracting process.

**X. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 am by Dr. Carolyn C. Lopez.