

Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health Meeting
February 16, 2022 at 9:00 am
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.

I. Roll Call

Quorum was established based upon the following:

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

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 January meeting minutes.

IV. Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Arwady provided both non-COVID and COVID updates:

- The department is wrapping up its strategic planning process, working on action planning teams, and finalizing goals, objectives, and measures. The five-year strategic plan will be presented at next month's Board of Health meeting.
- In the area of Mental Health, the department is well on the way to expanding its Trauma of Care centers program citywide. There are 32 Trauma-Informed Centers of Care in Chicago neighborhoods that have historically had less access to mental health, substance abuse, and other disparities. To be a part of this network, facilities have to agree to take people regardless of their income, current immigration status, or health insurance. Additional training will happen, and facilities will also serve as a referral network. CPS students who have mental

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health needs can be connected to the centers through partnerships with the schools.

- The department will be releasing an RFP for proposals from new agencies to implement further behavioral health expansion. It's expected to be released around March 1st. The network will be expanded to 42 new community areas. Also, additional funding and support will be added to seventeen existing community areas that are considered underrepresented.
- By year-end, the department expects to create sixty units of stabilization housing specifically for people who are currently experiencing homelessness, have complex mental health, medical issues, or substance abuse disorders. The department is working with some other states and city partners to look at how projects like this have gone well. We have been looking at sites with the department of Housing. In a few months, we expect to release an RFP to gain some of the clinical support for the project.
- CDPH, Chicago Police Department (CPD), Chicago Fire Department (CFD), and the Office of Emergency Management (OEMC), have piloted a Crisis Response team to increase the effectiveness of services for people calling 911 while experiencing a behavioral health or mental health emergency. The goal is to make sure they are connected to mental health services through the Care Team. An application has been submitted to the state to create a response team that does not involve the police.
- There is a new federal initiative to implement a new national number, 988, for mental health emergencies. It is not currently in place, however, there is a lot of work at the state and city level around how to integrate the Care Team and other resources and services.
- The department was successful in getting an ordinance passed through City Council that calls requires that healthy non-sugary beverages be marketed in kid's meals at restaurants. We were pleased to have the support of both the Illinois Restaurant Association and the Illinois Beverage Association on this. Children are consuming 2-3 times the daily recommended amount of sugar.
- The city is doing very well as it relates to COVID. There are four main metrics that are followed publicly: cases, positivity, non-ICU hospitalizations and ICU hospitalizations. Cases have fallen from high to moderately substantial. The goal is to get to lower risk on at least three of those four metrics in order to lift the indoor mask requirements. The Governor is aiming for February 28th. The City will make an announcement in the following week.

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Board Member Comments & Questions:

1. **Dr. Rothschild (Stabilization Housing)** – It’s hard to say anything good comes out of COVID, however the lessons learned from Hotel Julian and Hotel 166 were incredible. Glad about this new stabilization housing as an outcome.
2. **Dr. Rothschild (Pilot Health Care Respondent Team)** – Did I hear correctly that the purely mental health team (no police team) require state approval? If so, can you explain why that is?
3. **Dr. Rothschild (State Ordinance on Increasing the Timeliness of Reporting)** – Are there further hearings planned?
4. **Dr. Davis (Coordination with the State Regarding COVID-19 Strategies)** - What thoughts can you share regarding masking in CPS?

V. Board President’s Comments

- Dr. Lopez expressed her concerns about local and national conversations regarding Public Health, its necessity and the provision of the tools that are necessary for Public Health to function optimally. She noted that in some ways it is beyond the scope of anything the Board would address. As concerned and informed individuals regarding the topic members may want to reflect on what we can do. This area may be a situation where legislation, while important, may be less effective than person-to-person interactions.
- Dr. Lopez welcomed the attending student Daisy Ruiz from the University of Illinois.
- Dr. Lopez called for a motion of action to adopt the Resolution for Dr. Fox, Chicago Public Schools. The resolution was adopted unanimously.

VI. Presentation

Genese Turner, Director Health Equity and Strategic Partnerships

Title: HCEZ Overview - Healthy Chicago 2025: Closing the Life Expectancy Gap

- The presentation provided an overview of the Healthy Chicago community improvement plan that moves forward the vision of creating a city where all people and all communities are strengthened by equitable access to resources, environments, and opportunities that promote optimal health and well-being. The overview also gave insight into identified themes, principles, and change process necessary to create a more equitable city and to close the life expectancy gap between Black and White Chicagoans.

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▪ **Board Member Comments & Questions**

- 1) **Debra Wesley** – Is there any planning to integrate the Health Equity Zones with any of the state’s Medicaid Transformation initiative?
- 2) **Dr. Lin** – Has there been any thoughts on what is being already being measured and integrating and aligning Health Equity Zones with it and across the board?
- 3) **Dr. Davis (Sustainability)** – At Lurie’s Children they have found two ways to sustain efforts: empower community partners with language, data, and approaches regarding grant seeking efforts. Possibly consider creating a workshop around these particular issues and goals and providing a systematic way in talking about the goals. Secondly, utilize the power of youth in data collection.

VII. Public Comments

There were no requests for public comments.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business.

IX. Old Business

There was no old business.

X. Adjourn

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