

Chicago Board of Health  
October 20, 2021  
Hybrid Meeting  
By In-person/Remote Means

Pursuant to applicable law, the President has determined that an in-person meeting is possible and safe with compliance with indoor masking.

Accordingly, attendance at this meeting will be held in-person. However, three of our members have indicated they will be out of town and unable to participate except via remote access. Since Governor Pritzker has extended his order related to Covid-19 (allowing our meetings to be conducted remotely) we will take advantage of this to conduct a "hybrid" meeting. Remote access will be set up for use by the three members who will be out of town and the general public.

### Roll Call

#### Board Members Present

##### In-person

Carolyn C. Lopez, MD, President  
Matthew M. Davis, MD, MPP  
Steven K. Rothschild, MD  
Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN  
Debra Wesley, MSW

##### Remote Participants

Janet Lin, MD, MPH, MBA  
Rosa E. Martínez Colón, MS

#### Board Members Absent

Horace E. Smith, MD  
Joel Johnson, M.Ed

#### For the Department

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

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:03 am by Board President, Dr. Carolyn Lopez.

\*\*Meeting is being recorded\*\*

**Approval of Minutes:** BOH members accepted the September meeting minutes.

**Commissioner's Update:** Dr. Arwady provided an overview of current priorities for CDPH.

- City Budget: The Budget Committee of City Council will discuss the 2022 Budget on October 22, 2021. If approved will go to full City Council the following week.
- COVID: CDPH is planning for pediatric vaccines and will work with CPS and Vaccine for Children providers. We will offer Saturday clinics at City Colleges and provide COVID vaccines at the Flu Clinics. We will also start to provide boosters to the initial participants of the At Home program.

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- Family Connects: CDPH is proposing additional funding through the American Rescue Program (ARP) to strengthen Family Connects, so every child born in Chicago receives a nursing home visit 3 weeks post birth to assess needs and connect to resources. The Family Connects Provider Advisory Council met and will champion this program to encourage more families to participate. Thanks to Dr. Lopez and Dr. Davis for identifying providers for advisory council.
- Strategic Planning: We are completing the environmental scan, communications audit, and reviewing data from focus groups, stakeholder survey, and the nationwide lab/epi review. We will conduct the Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis and identify priorities together over next few weeks.
- Letter to Aldermen about Mental Health Services: Dr. Arwady sent a letter to the Aldermen detailing our work to provide more mental health care services to Chicagoans. This letter details how, by funding the Trauma Informed Centers of Care and other not-for-profit mental health efforts, including having mental health professionals in our 911 system, more Chicagoans will have access to mental health services.

BOH members had several questions and suggestions related to mental health:

Dr. Davis asked if CDPH knows the nature of mental health conditions being served with our new efforts. He acknowledged that aldermen may be concerned that people with serious mental illness may not be served in these settings. Dr. Arwady shared that we know that most people being served are not just for referrals but receive outpatient individual therapy, psychiatric services, and case management. We are also seeing people in homeless shelters.

**Additional inquiry included:**

Does CDPH focus on populations most affected by inequities for unmet mental health needs?

Dr. Arwady acknowledged the importance of this approach and that more work needs to be done to connect with these populations.

Does CDPH collect information on health outcomes from the new mental health programs?

Dr. Arwady shared that we have some preliminary data. For example, with mental health services in the homeless space, there has been a 90% decrease in EMS runs and CPD calls to shelter. CDPH will continue to gather data to better understand the impact of this approach.

What is CDPH doing in regard to workforce development for mental health professions?

Dr. Arwady shared that we haven't focused on workforce development as much as we would like to and asked BOH members working on this to engage with us.

A member expressed an interest in having a presentation on the types of mental health patients CDPH sees, what percentage of patients have certain diagnoses, how long they are in CDPH system, etc.

Does CDPH do any work with returning citizens to help them receive the appropriate behavioral health services? Dr. Arwady shared that CDPH has built up its team focused on diversion and deflection. We worked very closely with the jail during COVID and recognize the important role that government plays to help this population in all areas. We fund community organizations to provide intervention for mental health, substance use and violence prevention.

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Dr. Lopez added her congratulations for the work CDPH is doing to coordinate mental health resources.

**Board President 's Comments:** Dr. Lopez shared that in accordance with Governor Pritzker's Executive Order allowing public boards to meet remotely, we were able to have a hybrid Board of Health meeting today. Once this order is no longer in effect, the BOH would not have this hybrid option. Dr. Lopez inquired if BOH members would be interested in changing our rules to allow hybrid meetings, with specifications (e.g., remote access allowed if absence is due to job duties, etc.). Dr. Lopez offered to draft the rule if BOH members are interested in this change.

**Presentation: Legislative Update:** Jesse Lava, MPP Chief of Policy & Strategic Initiatives, presented information about several items in the proposed 2022 City Budget, that will strengthen CDPH's efforts to address health equity, including funding for Healthy Homes, Family Connects, mental health services, environment, and workforce development.

**Presentation: Overview of Food Protection and Code Enforcement Program CDPH:**

Virginia Castaneda, MBA, LEHP, provided an overview of the responsibilities of CDPH's Office of Food Protection and Public Health Code Enforcement, including the types of facilities inspected, the types of inspections, types of violations, and the options of inspection responses, i.e., Pass, Pass with conditions, Fail, and Closure-License Suspension. CDPH's Office of Food Protection and Code Enforcement continued its work in the community during COVID. Much of the work focused on employee and customer safety, including social distancing and mask usage; and cleaning and sanitizing, especially because many restaurants were providing outside eating spaces.

**Public Comments:** No public comments were submitted.

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**New business:** A question was raised about the Inspector General's report on the smokestack demolition at the former Crawford coal plant. Comments about the report are delayed until the report is released to the public.

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM.