

**Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health
Wednesday, December 21, 2022
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
DePaul Center
333 S. State Street, 2nd Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)**

I. Roll Call

Quorum was established based upon the following:

Present In-Person: Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN
Janet Lin, MD, MPH, MBA
Steven Rothschild, MD
Óscar Iván Zambrano, MPH, MBA
Joel Johnson, MEd

Absent: Matthew M. Davis, MD, MAPP
Debra Wesley, MSW
Horace E. Smith, MD
Rosa Martinez Colón, MS

For the Department: Allison Arwady, MD, Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health

II. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Janet Lin, M.D. President.

III. Approval of the Minutes

The Board voted and approved the November minutes.

IV. Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Arwady provided the following department wide COVID and non-COVID updates:

- **COVID-19 Updates:** We are still currently at a medium level with the anticipation that Chicago will move to high in the next couple of weeks. Dr. Arwady will do conference with mayor to inform public of this and regarding safe health practices during the holidays. If, and when, we move to a high level, formal indoor mask advisory will be put into place, staying in place until we are no longer at a high level. Currently, approximately 5% of hospitals are being taken by COVID patients.
- **Weather Update:** The first big snowstorm of the season is coming and the City has been actively preparing for it. Currently, we are unaware of how much snow there will be, but high winds and temperature drops are being monitored closely. Dr. Arwady detailed the City-wide and cross-departmental efforts that are occurring.
- **Healthy Chicago Seed Grants:** Last Friday, Dr. Arwady was able to hear from the Healthy Chicago Seed grantees. This consists of organizations that have not typically been successful or are not involved in city funding. Up to \$20,000 were

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allocated per organizations, alongside a series of workshops. Grantees were able to learn further about audits, grants, and ways to enhance the internal capacity of nonprofit agencies.

- **“2022 Year in Review”**: A summary of environmental protection accomplishments, which focuses on the work that has been occurring at CDPH in 2022, was issued. Some areas that were highlighted were: over 18,000 new trees planted, strengthening regulation on industry, cumulative community impact assessment, more public engagement, etc.
- **25-years of Tobacco Control in Chicago**: Currently working on a 25-year review of tobacco control in Chicago to be released in 2023. This will be used to highlight what efforts have been done and areas that need advocated further for as a city.
- **Healthcare System Coordination Team**: Working closely with pediatric providers who are stretched, monitoring bed capacity during the respiratory virus surge. They have been actively working on a lot messaging on preventing respiratory viruses.
- **Paper Releases**: There have been two recent articles from CDPH that have been released. In partnership with CPS and the Johns Hopkins School of Education, an article in the Journal School Health about the CDPH School-Based Vision Program documenting the history and successes of the program. Additionally, Rush and CDPH had a paper published in the Cross-Sector Partnership Supplement of the Journal of Health Care for Poor and Underserved. This paper describes the health equity-focused partnership between Rush and CDPH aimed at improving health care delivery in the postpartum period to reduce maternal-infant mortality.
- **HIV**: CDPH produced a documentary on HIV/AIDs in Chicago, the trailer was released on World AIDS Day. The documentary will discuss what it means to end the HIV epidemic from the perspective of long-time survivors of HIV. This documentary is scheduled for release in early February 2023.
- **Influenza and vaccination efforts**: Currently, the booster uptake is not occurring. CDPH will continue free vaccination clinics in conjunction with city colleges on Saturdays until, at least, February. Additionally, the “Protect Chicago at Home” program is extending indefinitely. Every year, CDPH supplements flu vaccines to assist with those who do not have access to them due to having no or minimal insurance. Currently there is not a vaccine for adults’ program, which means that those who are under insured or do not have insurance do not have access to free or low-cost vaccines. In late January, the FDA is hosting its Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee (VRBPAC) to address what should be done with boosters going forward, extending through the year.

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- **CDPH holiday efforts:** Dr. Arwady highlighted the ways that CDPH employees have been working diligently through the last two holiday season, due to vaccine distribution and Omicron.

Board Member Comments and Questions:

- **Joel Johnson:** Congratulated CDPH and CARE on obtaining a grant from the NFL. Housing is healthcare, how does Chicago assist the homeless population who are being institutionalized? How does Chicago move forward?
- **Óscar Zambrano:** What is expecting to happen with the influx of migrants due to Title 42?
- **Carmen Vergara:** How do people get connected to warming centers? Where are these centers located?
- **Dr. Lin:** Is there a trigger when these warming centers open?
- **Dr. Lin Follow up question:** Regarding Healthy Chicago Seed grantees, it would be helpful to get some follow-up on who has been awarded and how are we measuring success for the program.
- **Dr. Rothschild:** It is helpful to understand the warming centers more extensively. In relation to 311, what are the time to response metric? Is there data on this? One of the manufacturers of Narcan has gone to the FDA for approval, can CDPH support the approval of this product? Can policy makers support this, due to Chicago's success with Narcan?

V. Board President's Comments:

Comments regarding standing business and new business will be made after the presentations

VI. Presentations:

Title: 2022 Data Academy: Powerful Data-Driven Community Centered Storytelling

Margarita Reina, MPH

Senior Epidemiologist

Chicago Department of Public Health

Board Member Comments and Questions:

- **Óscar Zambrano:** Are any of the various schools in Chicago involved in Data Academy?
- **Dr. Rothschild:** Inquired about the presentations that were done by the fellows and if they are accessible for the board members to see. Additionally, asked if it would be possible to have the board members present during the presentations for the next cohorts. Encouraged the reach of Zoom to various communities who may not be able to come directly to the sessions, for a variety of reasons.

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- **Dr. Lin:** Stated that she was encouraged that community were engaging with data.
- **Carmen Vergara:** Provided further encouragement regarding the benefits of the program and offering it in another language.

VII. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

VIII. Standing Business

- Public Information Strategy: How can board members be better communicators on behalf of CDPH? This will continue to be a conservation for the board to have.
- Policy Update: Was brought up the previous month for the board to beware of any new or changing policies, but nothing formal needs to be done currently.

IX. New Business

There was no new business.

X. Old Business

- Update on 2023 Presentation Calendar: Requested that the board members inform Dr. Lin or Ivonne Sambolin what they would like presentations on in 2023.

XI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29am by Dr. Janet Lin.