

Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health Meeting
Wednesday, August 17, 2022
9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
DePaul Center
333 S. State Street, 2nd Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)
Hybrid Meeting

I. Roll Call

Quorum was established based upon the following:

Present In-Person: Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN
Debra Wesley, MSW
Janet Lin, MD, MPH, MBA
Matthew M. Davis, MD, MPP
Oscar Ivan Zambrano, MPH, MBA, CDM
Steve Rothschild, MD

Remote Participation: Rosa E. Martinez Colon

Absent: Joel Johnson
Horace E. Smith, MD

For the Department

Megan Cunningham, Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Community Health
Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)

II. Call to Order

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

III. Approval of Minutes

The Board voted and approved the July meeting minutes.

IV. Commissioner's Update

Deputy Commissioner Cunningham attended the meeting as proxy for Commissioner Arwady and provided the following department wide COVID and non-COVID updates:

- Public Health Accreditation – health departments across the country seek accreditation from the formal body called the Public Health Foundation Board (PHAB). The department received overwhelmingly positive feedback from the body. PHAB noted that the CDPH continues to build connections between data, equity, and quality improvement. They specifically commended the department on the work done with the Protect Chicago “At Home” program, our way of addressing barriers associated with vaccination. They also highlighted our collaboration with community and

academic partners in the management of Chicago Health Atlas, our web-based platform where hundreds of indicators of community health and well-being are available to the public. The public body was also proud of the workforce development training that we have been doing for our own CDPH staff surrounding dismantling racist systems and helping staff recognize and understand ways in which racist systems operate even within the government.

- Our office of the Chief Medical Officer plans to onboard a new position, Director of Healthcare Systems Coordination. The mission is to collaborate, convene, and strengthen ties with healthcare providers in service of promoting health.
- We have been growing the behavioral health portfolio with the goal of establishing trauma informed centers of care in all 77 Chicago community areas. In phase two of our efforts, we have released an invite only RFP among the 2020 trauma informed centers awardees providing additional resources to increase access across the Chicago neighborhoods with a focus on specialized mental health services for populations that are historically marginalized and have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19 pandemic such as youth up to age 24. The department is excited to be able to use these funds to bring younger adults and children into mental health services. These funds are also very focused on other specialized populations such as older adults (60+), individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, non-native English speaking individuals, immigrants/refugees, LGBTQIA, and individuals and survivors of gender-based violence.
- The department has assumed responsibility for the [Unspoken Resource Finder](#) and website. This is a hub for Chicagoans to be able to go to one place and understand what mental health resources are available in their communities and that meet their particular needs. CDPH's role will consist of coordinating resources to ensure that residents get the most up-to-date and accurate information.
- In the Office of Violence Prevention, we recently released two RFPs, the first of which is for a trauma informed collaborative. It will award up to \$150,000 to an organization that will serve as a trauma informed collaborative lead that will construct an online process for requesting and storing materials. They will also develop methods for improving trauma informed practices across systems and create a diverse, multi-sector citywide collaborative. The other RFP focuses on creation of trauma informed learning cohorts. This opportunity will award \$800,000 across 4 lead organizations that will serve as trauma informed cohort leaders.
- COVID-19 Update: Numbers remain high but the city is moving in the right direction and we are hopeful that we will return to medium in the near future. We remain concerned about vaccine uptake, particularly among Chicagoans under the age of five. We expect an updated COVID vaccine next month as soon as late September or early October. The department is focused on mobilizing around continued vaccination and education efforts.
- Monkeypox Update: we have a vaccines supply that continues to increase and we are working hard to vaccinate those who are at highest risk to help stop the spread. We have joined efforts with community partners from healthcare providers to

community-based organizations, somewhere around 250 partners have been deeply engaged in the work.

Board Member Comments & Questions:

- **Dr. Davis** – (Monkeypox) What about the availability of second doses? What are the evolving policies surrounding Monkeypox? Where does the City stand in terms of Monkeypox vaccines for individuals under age 18 who have sex with men and transgender individuals under age 18? How do we approach vaccination without needing parental consent? How is this being approached in CDPH clinics? (Flu Vaccination) Will these be offered through the “At Home” program in a similar manner as the COVID-19 vaccination?
- **Dr. Rothschild** – (Public Health Accreditation) besides the positive feedback, what areas or opportunities for improvement did they identify?
- **Carmen Vergara** – What about the stigma associated with a person being eligible for the vaccine and what that means as it relates to their sexual practices?
- **Debra Wesley** – (Monkeypox) Have there been any communication about screenings or indicators for children who may be at risk based?

V. Board President’s Comments

- Dr. Lin announced that the August 17th meeting is the first meeting with the new “hybrid” format where Board of Health members are expected to participate in person and the general public can attend in person or via remote access.
- Dr. Lin informed the Board about former Board President, Dr. Lopez’s accident. A get well soon card was distributed for signature.

VI. Presentation

Title: Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion
Ajanta Patel, MD, MPH, Medical Director
Chicago Department of Public Health

The presentation provided an overview of the department’s Chronic Disease work. It described several areas of focus such as providing data (epidemiology) and monitoring changes (surveillance). Efforts are underway to integrate with health systems to provide excellence in chronic disease prevention. CDPH’s role also includes work in the areas of Law and Health Policy and environments that modify chronic disease and using community sources to connect residents to clinical services (community clinical linkages).

Board Member Comments & Questions:

- **Debra Wesley** – Is there any data or correlation between those who are incarcerated or other populations such as veterans.
- **Carmen Vergara – (Community Health Worker Model)** What efforts are being done to increase sustainability among community health workers?

- **Dr. Davis** – We can hope to achieve change if we are actually investing. What is the City’s plan toward future investment in the area of chronic disease? Health literacy should be connected to the school system. How do we send out meaningful messaging that help people change?
- **Oscar Zambrano** – Where does language and culture inform policy?

VII. Public Comments

There were no public comments for this meeting.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business.

IX. Old Business

The proposal for new “hybrid” meeting format was implemented.

X. Adjourn

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