

Chicago Board of Health
March 17, 2021
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.

Roll Call

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President
Juan M. Calderon
Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.
Melanie Dreher, RN, PhD.
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., DDS, MPH
Victor M. Gonzalez
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.
Horace E. Smith, M.D.
Joseph B. Starshak

For the Department

Allison Arwady, M.D., Commissioner, Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:02am by Board President, Dr. Carolyn Lopez.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes of the February 2021 meeting were approved by the Board.

Resolution on Migration and Climate Change: Board members reviewed final language and approved the Chicago Board of Health's Resolution on Migration and Climate Change. The resolution will be posted on the Board's website with the March 2021 meeting information.

Commissioner's Update: Dr. Arwady presented Board members with an overview of the City's efforts on COVID-19, provided an update on vaccine distribution, COVID-19 variants, and also informed the Board about progress with the City's vaccine equity initiatives. Dr. Arwady also provided an update on senior vaccinations, new City-managed mass vaccination sites, the opening of Phase 1C vaccine eligibility, CDPH progress on mental health and substance use, the prospect of rebuilding Chicago's local public health workforce with new federal funding, the status of Southside Recycling's permit review process, the City's new Air Quality Ordinance, and the City's Environmental Equity Working Group.

Board Member Comments: COVID-19 - Dr. Smith complemented the City's equity-focused vaccine distribution initiatives. Mr. Calderon inquired about additional funding opportunities that may be available for community-based vaccine outreach strategies in underserved communities. Mr. Starshak inquired about higher positivity rates in collar counties. Dr. Lopez inquired about reopening and virus resurgence. Behavioral Health – Dr. Rothschild inquired about the City's pilot program to pair mental health clinicians with public safety responders. Mr. Calderon shared information about opportunities to partner with community-based organizations on behavioral health services and inquired about new funding opportunities. Dr. Dreher inquired about behavioral health services focused on homeless populations. Environment – Dr. Rothschild inquired about the status of Southside Recycling's permit to operate a recycling facility on the City's Southeast side.

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Dr. Smith shared a comment about the Board's role on police reform, and indicated he is interested in learning more about the consent decree at a future board meeting, referencing this also has a behavioral health implication.

Dr. Lopez thanked Dr. Arwady and CDPH for all their hard work on behalf of the Board.

Board President Comments: Dr. Lopez thanked Board members for all their work on the City's new Board of Health ordinance which was recently passed by City Council.

Public Comments: No oral public comments. The Board liaison indicated one written public comment was received regarding Southside Recycling's permit to operate a recycling facility on the City's Southeast side.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:24 AM.