

Chicago Board of Health Meeting Summary:
December 18th, 2019
Department of Public Health, DePaul Center Boardroom
333 S. State Suite 200 Chicago, IL 60604

Roll Call

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.
Melanie Dreher, RN, PhD.
Joseph B. Starshak
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.
Victor M. Gonzalez
Juan M. Calderon
Horace E. Smith, M.D.

Board Members Absent

Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D

For the Department

Allison Arwady, M.D., Acting Commissioner

Chicago Board of Health Meeting Summary:
December 18th, 2019
Department of Public Health, DePaul Center Boardroom
333 S. State Suite 200 Chicago, IL 60604

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am by Board President, Dr. Carolyn Lopez.

Approval of Minutes: Quorum was present, and November Minutes were approved.

Commissioner's Update: Dr. Allison Arwady - Acting Commissioner- Chicago Department of Public Health provided the following updates:

Maternal Morbidity & Mortality In Chicago: CDPH released a new report, Maternal Morbidity & Mortality In Chicago, which is its first such assessment providing data on severe maternal morbidity (severe pregnancy complications) and pregnancy-associated mortality (death), along with specific rates by demographic subgroups. The report found that in Chicago, consistent with national and state trends, non-Hispanic Black women and women living in communities with higher economic hardship bear the largest burden of maternal morbidity and pregnancy-associated mortality.

Family Connects Chicago: Mayor Lightfoot and CDPH formally announced the launch of Family Connects Chicago, a service designed to support the health and wellbeing of mothers, newborns and their families by providing home visits with registered nurses at no cost shortly after birth. CDPH will initially pilot Family Connects Chicago in partnership with four Chicago birthing hospitals – Norwegian American Hospital, Rush University Medical Center, Mount Sinai Hospital, and St. Bernard Hospital – to better understand how the model will work. It is estimated that next year, more than 4,000 families will be eligible for this service at the four pilot hospitals. The goal is to scale the service to all Chicago birthing hospitals over five years. CDPH will also connect new mothers to community resources as needed.

Chicago Collaborative for Maternal Health: CDPH, Alliance Chicago, Ever Thrive Illinois, the Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative and other community partners have joined forces to combat the maternal mortality crisis in Chicago. The newly formed Chicago Collaborative for Maternal Health (CCMH) is one of nine innovative, evidence-based community solutions in cities throughout the U.S. to receive funding through the Safer Childbirth Cities initiative with a goal of improving maternal health outcomes. The CCMH will facilitate improved quality of care in the outpatient setting and coordination of care across multiple sectors, as well as increase community awareness to improve maternal health outcomes throughout Chicago. The Collaborative will prioritize those most affected by maternal health disparities, low income and non-Hispanic Black women, and ensure that women in the community have an opportunity to contribute and inform the work.

Cannabis Facts Chicago: With the legalization of cannabis in the state of Illinois on January 1, 2020, Mayor Lightfoot and CDPH are issuing guidance and precautionary information for those who plan to consume products recreationally. To ensure a safe and responsible implementation of legalized cannabis, the City is rolling out a new public service awareness campaign called Cannabis Facts Chicago aimed at offering residents, particularly parents and guardians, information on the potential impact of recreational cannabis as well as tips for adults on how to consume cannabis safely if they choose to do so. CDPH will work with partners in the medical community, as well as CPS and City Colleges of Chicago, to communicate these tips to residents, and particularly young people, about the use of cannabis.

Chicago Board of Health Meeting Summary:
December 18th, 2019
Department of Public Health, DePaul Center Boardroom
333 S. State Suite 200 Chicago, IL 60604

CDC Site Visit: CDPH, along with IDPH, received a site visit from the CDC's National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. CDPH's CDC funding supports programs in those areas, as well as in school-based and adolescent health. CDPH provided an overview of our organizational structures, laws, and policies that may affect the implementation of CDC-funded programs. We also described coordination and collaboration across the different programs within CDPH, and also in conjunction with IDPH. Each CPPH program head provided an overview and presented brief updates on the current status and future visions of the programs. In addition, CDPH provided presentations addressing issues related to health equity. CDC leaders praised CDPH for our work around HIV, Congenital Syphilis and TB elimination, and our citywide efforts to reduce health inequities under Healthy Chicago 2.0.

Vaping: As you may already be aware, the Illinois Attorney General (AG) filed a consumer fraud lawsuit last week against Juul, alleging it targets minors and misrepresents the ability of its devices to help people quit smoking. The lawsuit also alleges Juul had a central role in undoing years of work by government agencies, and anti-tobacco activists, in order to addict a whole new generation to nicotine. This Illinois AG indicated this lawsuit is part of a comprehensive approach to addressing a public health epidemic, particularly one impacting young people. The Illinois AG is also urging the FDA to ban flavored tobacco products and to strengthen e-cigarette guidance by prioritizing enforcement actions against flavored e-cigarettes. Separately, Senator Durbin and US Representative Krishnamoorthi last week announced they are introducing a bill in Congress to create youth vaping prevention programs in schools. The bill titled the Prevent Act will create new federal grants programs to provide states and schools with the funding they need to prevent and reduce e-cigarette use among kids. The Illinois Department of Public Health indicates there have been 201 people in Illinois that have had a lung injury tied to vaping, with the youngest patient 13 years old. A total of five Illinois resident have died from vaping as health officials continue to investigate a surge of e-cigarette illnesses across the country. CDPH convened a community stakeholder meeting this past fall to discuss e-cigarettes and flavored tobacco which is threatening another generation with addiction. Based on feedback, CDPH is exploring proposing a ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products, not just vape products, since such a ban could push youth from vaping to even more dangerous products.

CityHealth Gold Medal: Chicago has again received a gold medal as one of the nation's highest performing cities when it comes to passing policies that improve the health and well-being of its residents, according to updated city ratings released by CityHealth. The Washington-based organization that works to advance and evaluate policy solutions that will help people live healthier lives released its newest national report on urban policymaking, and for the third straight year Chicago received gold. Chicago received a gold in six of the nine categories and an overall gold medal, demonstrating, according to CityHealth, that city leaders understand the role of policy as a valuable prescription for public health, and a tool to make cities vibrant, prosperous places to live.

Ebola Treatment and Transport Exercise: CDPH collaborated with Northwestern Memorial Hospital, one of three Ebola Treatment Centers in Chicago, to support an Ebola Treatment and Transport Exercise. In the scenario, a patient with suspected Ebola was seen in the Lake Forest Hospital Emergency Department and needed to be transported and subsequently admitted to Northwestern for treatment. The exercise required CDPH to communicate with public health partners, including the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Lake County Health Department, to assure a smooth journey for the patient. Three of the four statewide Ebola Treatment Hospitals are in Chicago: Northwestern, Rush, and Lurie Children's Hospital.

Chicago Board of Health Meeting Summary:
December 18th, 2019
Department of Public Health, DePaul Center Boardroom
333 S. State Suite 200 Chicago, IL 60604

World AIDS Day: CDPH hosted the Chicago 2019 World AIDS Day event at the Harold Washington Library. World AIDS Day is dedicated internationally to raising awareness and honoring the legacy of the HIV/AIDS collective movement. Mayor Lightfoot provided the opening remarks, and the event culminated in community partner recognition, and the state's new Getting to Zero Illinois initiative, as we look to a future that ends the HIV epidemic by 2030.

Comments by the Board President: Dr. Lopez reviewed the roles and duties of the Board of Health to the audience.

Presentation: Framework for Mental Health Equity: Fostering a Trauma-Informed System of Care - Matt Richards, Deputy Commissioner of Behavioral Health, Chicago Department of Public Health.

New Business: Based on the Board members' interest on the presentation of the Mental Health Framework, Board President Lopez invited the CDPH Behavioral Health team to provide a presentation addendum at another meeting ; to help provide additional information to the Board on the new mental health program investments.

Comments from Board: Board members inquired about the Mental Health Framework's development and partnership with local community organizations, and also inquired about the RFP process, and how the new mental health program investments will be implemented.

Public Comments: Members of the Community Mental Health Advisory Board spoke on the relationship with CDPH, and provided comments on the partnership with local community organizations that provided feedback on the Mental Health Framework. Representatives of Slaughter Free Chicago spoke about their advocacy group's efforts to make Chicago a slaughter free city, and urged CDPH and the Board of Health to help ensure that all local rules are being enforced. Dr. Arwady responded to the Slaughter Free Chicago group's director, and assured them that CDPH is doing all that it can to address their issues. Dr. Arwady also referred the group the U.S Department of Agriculture, as well as the Illinois Department of Agriculture, and indicated that CDPH has also contacted them about the group's concerns. Board President Lopez also responded to the Slaughter Free Chicago group's director and indicated that, as an advisory body, the Board of Health may not be the best avenue for their group to address their concerns.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 10:20AM.