

**Meeting Summary of the Regular Meeting of
the Chicago Board of Health
CDPH Board Room, 2nd Floor
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street
Wednesday, July 17, 2013, 9:00 a.m.**

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D.
Carl C. Bell, M.D.
Melanie Dreher, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N.
Victor Gonzalez
Joseph B. Starshak
Caswell A Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.
Horace E. Smith, M.D.

Board Members Absent:

Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.

For the Department:

Bechara Choucair, M.D., Commissioner

BOARD OF HEALTH MEETING
July 17, 2013
DePaul Center, 333 S. State Street
Meeting Summary

Call to Order: President Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:03 A.M.

Approval of Minutes: All were in favor of approving the June 19, 2013 minutes.

Commissioner's Report and Healthy Chicago Update: Commissioner Bechara Choucair provided an update on the following items:

- The former Woodlawn Mental Health facility will be reopening through Thresholds, and will be providing services to the public once the ordinance is passed by City Council.
- The first West Nile virus positive mosquito batch was confirmed by CDPH in late June as part of the comprehensive West Nile virus surveillance and prevention program. The program initiates many activities, such as limiting the number of mosquitos carrying the virus and testing mosquitos that are caught in traps around the city. Auburn Gresham, Washington Heights and Forest Glen communities were all found to have West Nile virus infected mosquitos, and they are being sprayed today to prevent the possibility of any human West Nile virus cases.
- CDPH's work was featured last week at the annual meeting of the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). Dr. Choucair gave a presentation on the efforts and successes of Healthy Chicago. CDPH also facilitated a session which highlighted the public health related work of CPS, CDOT and DHED, which all sent senior staff to present. Additionally, Chicago's quality improvement efforts were presented, along with work on the Chicago Health Atlas.

Board member Melanie Dreher, Ph.D., R.N., F.A.A.N., asked a question on how West Nile virus mosquitoes are tested and identified in the City of Chicago. Cortland Lohff, M.D., Medical Director for Environmental Health, explained the traps and labs used to catch and identify West Nile virus positive mosquitoes.

Comments from Board President: President Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., welcomed students to the Board meeting. Dr. Lopez gave a brief history of the Board to the students. She stated that they are an advisory board that advises the mayor and the Department on issues of public health.

Update: PHAB Report/Accreditation Process: Deputy Commissioner Jaime Dirksen announced that the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) released CDPH's Site Visit Report, outlining CDPH's many strengths and a few weaknesses. Though there is no formal grading scale, CDPH received a score of 92% based on an informed grading scale other public health departments around the nation have collectively developed.

Policy/Legislative Update: Kendall Stagg, Director of Policy, presented the Policy/Legislative Report, including the following highlights:

City:

- **Thresholds Program to Operate at Former Site of CDPH Woodlawn Mental Health Clinic:** The City will enter into an agreement with Thresholds Inc. that would allow them to use a portion of the space at the former site of the CDPH Woodlawn Mental Health Clinic. Thresholds will provide services and coordinate other programs at this site.
- **CDPH to Host AmeriCorps Volunteers:** The Mayor introduced an ordinance to City Council that would allow CDPH to host AmeriCorps volunteers. The volunteers will allow CDPH to expand and enhance oral health services to eligible students attending Chicago Public Schools.

State:

- **Conceal and Carry:** The Illinois General Assembly overrode the Governor's amendatory veto of House Bill 183, passing the original version of a compromise concealed carry bill, which did not contain any provisions made by the Governor.
- **Pension Reform:** The Conference Committee on Senate Bill 1 did not meet Governor Quinn's deadline to reach a compromise on pension reform provisions. Though they will continue to meet, the Governor will withhold member's paychecks until a plan is approved.

Federal:

- **House Passes Farm Bill without SNAP and Nutrition Reauthorizations:** The House adopted a version of the Farm Bill that did not include authorizations for many of federal nutrition programs, specifically the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Dick Durbin, D-IL, said the Senate would not take up or approve a Farm Bill without nutrition programs included.
- **Senate Appropriations Committee Labor/HHS/Education Bill:** The Senate approved a fiscal year 2014 bill that will provide a \$12 billion increase from the previous year. This money will be used to make investments to reduce healthcare costs, boost medical research, improve early childhood care and education, and improve school safety and access to mental health services.
- **Implementing the ACA:** This bill includes \$5.2 billion for Program Management at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the agency responsible for overseeing the ACA. This is a \$1.3 billion increase from the year before.
- **Alzheimer's Disease:** This bill includes an \$84 million increase for the National Institute on Aging, which is responsible for preventing, treating and curing Alzheimer's. The bill also includes \$20 million for a new Alzheimer's Disease Initiative that will strengthen long-term services and supports, assist caregivers, and train providers on how to recognize the signs and symptoms of the disease.
- **Community Transformation Grants:** The bill includes \$290 million, an increase of \$144 million, for evidence-based public health interventions to reduce obesity and smoking, and make preventive services more accessible.
- **Childhood Immunizations:** The bill includes \$579 million for immunization programs. Immunization saves \$10.20 in direct medical costs for every \$1 invested.
- **Smoking Prevention:** The bill includes \$203 million for the Office of Smoking and Health at CDC. This funding increase of \$35 million will continue the successful media campaign, "Tips From a Former Smoker," and expand state smoking quit-lines.

- **Diabetes Prevention:** The bill includes \$10 million for the Diabetes Prevention Program, a set of lifestyle interventions that has been proven to reduce the risk of developing diabetes.
- **Elder Falls:** The bill includes \$10 million to research and implement evidence-based approaches to preventing elderly falls.
- **Mental Health Services:** The bill includes \$119 million in new funding to increase access to mental health services, focusing on public awareness initiatives, education and state grants.
- **Safe and Healthy Schools:** The bill includes \$195 million to improve learning conditions in the nation's schools. The money will be directed towards grant programs, school district development, implementation of emergency plans, and breaking the cycle of violence.

Other Jurisdictions:

- **Wisconsin Governor Accepts Preemption Provision in State Budget:** Governor Scott Walker approved the Wisconsin state budget, which includes a provision that prevents municipalities from restricting sales of food or drink based on calories, size or other nutritional criteria. Public health advocates have called on Walker to use his veto powers to strike the provision. Wisconsin joins Mississippi and Ohio in enacting preemption laws in 2013 and 2012, respectively.

Presentation: Lead Exposure and Healthy Homes: Cortland Lohff, M.D., Medical Director of Environmental Health opened the presentation on lead exposure and the Healthy Homes initiative. Dr. Lohff explained that even though lead was banned from paint and gasoline many years ago, childhood lead poisoning and exposure remains a problem in Chicago because of the older housing stock. CDPH's Healthy Homes/Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program provides services to address lead poisoning, including case management, education of property owners, and home inspections, which have all aided in lowering the number of children with lead exposure and poisoning. Anne Evens, Ph.D., from the Center for Neighborhood Technology outlined the many negative effects of childhood lead exposure, including lower standardized test scores, lower IQ, and an increased risk of school failure. Dr. Evens discussed a study she conducted with the University of Illinois at Chicago on lead exposure in Chicago children and in the Chicago school system. The study found many negative effects of lead exposure even at low levels in Chicago children, such as lower IQ, lower math and reading ISAT scores, and higher percentages of failing math and reading ISAT exams.

Dr. Bell stated that many of these effects are similar to those of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, which is prevalent in Chicago and asked if some of these results could be attributed to Fetal Alcohol Syndrome. Dr. Evens explained that after Fetal Alcohol Syndrome was adjusted for, the results and effect of lead exposure remained the same.

Dr. Smith asked if lead exposure is dangerous at all levels, why aren't doctors prescribing chelation at lower levels. Dr. Evens explained that chelation does not help with long term exposure and only works at high levels, which is why early intervention is so important.

Dr. Evans pointed out that not all children with elevated blood lead levels (BLLs) have learning problems and asked if there were any protective factors that helped these children who do succeed. Dr. Evens shared that educational success is due to many factors, including parental IQ, parental involvement and support. Therefore, even though lead poisoning will diminish some of their educational abilities, children

with elevated BLLs who start at a higher level often do not fail school, though they could be much more successful if they had not been exposed to lead as children.

Dr. Dreher asked why there are similar factors in rural areas, such as lead based paints in older homes, but lower levels there as opposed to in metropolitan Chicago. Dr. Evens explained that unlike rural areas, metropolitan areas have to deal with a higher concentration of lead based paints, public transportation, soil contamination, and industrial exposure, which all factor into why city populations have higher mean BLLs.

Dr. Rothschild expressed concern on the amount of funding that was cut, especially from the federal level and CDC. Dr. Choucair said the cuts will effect lead prevention programs, but there will be continued services and efforts made with funding from other sources.

Old Business: None.

New Business: None.

Public Comments: Following up on the Commissioner's earlier announcement that Thresholds plans to operate at the former site of the CDPH Woodlawn mental health clinic, Badonna Reingold said she is happy to hear Thresholds will be providing services at that site – stating that area is a “desert.” Ms. Reingold asked when Thresholds would start providing services. The Commissioner indicated that the proposal has passed out of committee but still must be approved by the City Council. Also, prior to operating, Thresholds may need to do some minor renovations to the facility.

Ms. Reingold stated there are currently limited mental health services for the uninsured in Illinois and asked the Commissioner to define the population who will be served. The Commissioner indicated that the primary focus will be on providing services to the uninsured because the insured have more options when it comes to mental health services.

Ms. Reingold asked the Commissioner if CDPH will be able to provide services to people with insurance, whether that be private insurance or through Medicaid. The Commissioner indicated that the new Thresholds services will be able to provide services to the insured population, but CDPH's primary focus will be on providing services to the uninsured.

Ms. Reingold stated that the State is promoting and implementing Medicaid Managed Care, and asked if CDPH is going to be joining as a provider. The Commissioner indicated that our focus is on the uninsured, but a decision on this topic has not yet been determined.

Meeting Adjourned: Meeting Adjourned at 10:11 A.M.

Next Board Meeting: August 21, 2013, 9:00 A.M.