

**Meeting Summary of the Regular Meeting
of the Chicago Board of Health
CDPH Board Room, 2nd Floor
DePaul Center, 333 S. State Street
Wednesday, February 20, 2013, 9:00 AM**

Members Present: Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President
Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.
Melanie Dreher, RN, Ph.D.
Victor M. Gonzalez
Joseph B. Starshak

For the Department: Bechara Choucair, M.D., Commissioner

I. Call to Order

Dr. Carolyn C. Lopez called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

II. Approval of Minutes

The January 16, 2013 meeting minutes were approved.

III. Commissioner/Healthy Chicago Update

Commissioner Choucair provided an update on the following items:

- *Healthy Chicago* – On February 14, 2013, CDPH released the Healthy Chicago Annual Report, which covers the first 16 months of implementation activities. Of the 193 strategies identified in Healthy Chicago, 45% have been implemented and another 47% are in progress.
- *HHS Secretary's Visit* – CDPH hosted Secretary Sebelius at the release of the Healthy Chicago Annual Report. Just over 300 partners heard the Secretary share her thoughts on the impact of the Affordable Care Act.
- *Heart Health* – This month, CDPH launched a new citywide heart disease prevention campaign that promotes heart health through the use of wireless technology, social media and viral marketing. The focal point for the campaign is Heart Health Mobile, the winning mobile app of the Million Hearts Risk Check Challenge that allows users to assess their risk for heart disease.
- *A Recipe for Healthy Places* – The Board of Health's letter of support for *A Recipe for Healthy Places* was presented to the Chicago Plan Commission last month. On January 24, 2013, the Chicago Plan Commission adopted *A Recipe for Healthy Places*, which is a comprehensive food plan that will help address obesity in the city.

- *Dating Violence* – February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention month. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) commended Chicago on its implementation of the Dating Matters initiative, which utilizes community engagement and partner collaborations.
- *Flu Epidemic* – On February 6, 2013, Commissioner Choucair presented to City Council’s Health and Environmental Protection Committee regarding the status of the flu epidemic in Chicago.

The Commissioner answered questions of the Board.

IV. Comments by the Board President

Dr. Carolyn Lopez welcomed a group of students from UIC School of Public Health who were in attendance at the meeting. She provided background information on the Chicago Board of Health.

V. Employee Recognition

The Board recognized CDPH employee Steven Busch for forty years of service at the department. Mr. Busch has served in a variety of capacities with the department and is now the director of CDPH’s Northwest Mental Health Center.

VI. Policy/Legislative Update:

Kendall Stagg, Director of Policy, presented the following highlights:

Local

- U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius appeared at a Healthy Chicago event on February 14, 2013, where she promoted the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the health insurance marketplace.
- City Council introduced an ordinance on bed bugs that would provide the Commissioner with new authority to enforce building codes related to public health and sanitary conditions.
- Mayor Emanuel and Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle have each introduced local ordinances imposing stricter rules for reporting lost, stolen or transferred firearms.

State

- Due to layoffs at the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulations, licenses for new or transferring physicians could take between 12 and 18 months to process; however a temporary fee increase has provided a short-term solution.

- The Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) have reduced the number of prescriptions that can be filled in a 30-day period without prior authorization from seven to five.

Federal

- Although the ACA prohibits local wellness plans from asking enrollees about gun ownership and safety, President Obama recently issued an Executive Order clarifying that physicians can and should be asking patients about these issues as part of comprehensive health care.
- Senator Harkin reintroduced the Healthier Lifestyles and Prevention America (HeLP America) Act, which addresses a number of nutrition provisions including fresh fruits and vegetables in elementary schools, packaged food labeling, and sodium content of processed/restaurant food.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed updated nutrition standards for school snack foods and beverages (competitive foods). If these standards were implemented today, Chicago Public Schools would already be compliant because its competitive food policy is so strong.
- Sequestration is likely to occur on March 1, 2013. CDC has indicated that these across-the-board spending cuts will result in cuts to local health departments and impact health and safety.

VII. Presentation: History of the Chicago Department of Public Health

Erica Salem, Deputy Commissioner of Policy & Planning, presented a history of public health in Chicago. Her presentation outlined different eras in public health beginning in the pre-1850's and provided an overview of the Chicago Board of Health's activities since its establishment in 1834. Ms. Salem highlighted the successes of policy interventions and environmental changes to address public health, from communicable diseases, such as cholera at the turn of the century, to modern-day chronic diseases like obesity and diabetes. The importance of data and communication were emphasized, along with the role that public health leaders, such as the Board of Health, can play in protecting the public's health and standing up for what is right.

VIII. Old Business

HIV and Principal Notification Legislation: Kendall Stagg and Mary Snodgrass presented an overview of the Illinois HIV Principal Notification law, which requires local health departments to provide the identity of students with HIV to their school principals. The law was adopted in 1987 when there was intense fear and misunderstanding about how HIV is transmitted. Now, based on current medical science and an understanding of the negative impact that the law has on students, efforts are underway to repeal the HIV Principal Notification law. HB 61 would fully repeal the law, and the Board approved a motion to submit a letter to the Illinois General Assembly in support of HB 61.

IX. New Business

Kendall Stagg introduced two CDPH interns to the Board.

X. Public Comments

Badonna Reingold raised questions regarding the monthly prescription drug limits for Medicaid patients. The Commissioner noted that this is a state issue but that CDPH would check with HFS.

XI. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:12 a.m.