

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

I. Call to Order

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

II. Approval of Minutes

The February 20, 2013 meeting minutes were approved.

III. Commissioner/Healthy Chicago Update

Commissioner Choucair provided an update on the following items:

- **Healthy Chicago and Healthy CPS:** Two reports were issued on February 28th during the First Lady Michelle Obama's visit celebrating the 3rd anniversary of *Let's Move*. The new *Healthy Chicago* report describes overweight and obesity in students in Chicago Public Schools, focusing on 6th graders and 9th graders. The report also describes improved progress in reducing obesity rates in kids entering Kindergarten, with obesity rates falling to 20%. The released *Healthy CPS* agenda identifies over 60 strategies for policy, systems, and environmental change, as well as programmatic efforts. The agenda focuses on addressing tobacco, obesity, adolescent health, and access to health care.
- **Healthy Vending Challenge:** As part of a Healthy Vending Challenge, offices of the City of Chicago have replaced items in vending machines with healthier options. The Mayor has issued this same challenge to businesses and corporations in the city.

IV. Comments by the Board President

Dr. Carolyn Lopez welcomed the students attending the Board of Health meeting.

V. Policy/Legislative Update:

Kendall Stagg, Director of Policy, presented a Policy/Legislative Report with highlights of Federal, State, and Judicial matters.

Local / City

At a city level, potential bans on triclosan and efforts to curb the sale of illegal cigarettes were

discussed. Dr. Melanie Dreher asked Mr. Stagg what was considered an illegal cigarette. Mr. Stagg explained that illegal cigarettes are cigarettes that are unstamped or not properly packed. As a result of national controversy, a resolution has been introduced requiring the Board of the Health and the Commissioner of Health to appear before the City Council to ensure that nursing care facilities in Chicago do not have policies that would prevent staff from performing CPR on a resident.

State

At the State level, Mr. Stagg highlighted HB 61, the bill that repeals Principal Notification for HIV. The bill received a number of cosponsors that can be attributed in part to the letter sent by the Board of Health to Chicago legislators. SB 26, a bill authorizing Medicaid expansion through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), has passed the Senate and has yet to be given a hearing in the House.

Federal

At the Federal level, Mr. Stagg highlighted the budget plan put forward in the House of Representatives by Representative Paul Ryan, which would eliminate the Prevention & Public Health Fund. A bill that would improve funding for physical education and bills modifying the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) through drug testing and banning what (SNAP) will pay for were also highlighted.

Judicial

Mr. Stagg also highlighted developments in the judicial branch. The Justice Department has announced it will not seek any review of the federal appeals court decision that graphic warning labels are a violation of First Amendment rights. The 2d Circuit Court of Appeals upheld New York City's restrictions on flavored cigarettes in a strongly worded opinion that reaffirms the rights of cities and states to regulate the sale of tobacco products. Mr. Stagg referred to the opinion as a "blueprint" for cities and towns that want to further regulate cigarettes.

VI. Presentation: County Care / Cook County's 1115 Waiver for Early Medicaid Expansion Under the ACA

Sidney Thomas, Director of Provider Relations for the Cook County Health and Hospital System (CCHHS), delivered a presentation on the CCHHS CountyCare Medicaid demonstration program funded through the ACA, allocated through the application for a 1115 waiver. The program aims to provide health insurance to 115,000 currently uninsured residents of Cook County between the ages of 19 to 64 living within 133% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Mr. Thomas gave an overview of the service composition, partners in the provider network, and the importance of primary care providers in coordinating delivery of services.

VII. Old Business

Mr. Stagg referred briefly to the HIV and Principal Notification Legislation as it had already been discussed earlier in the meeting.

VIII. New Business

Mr. Stagg explained the Illinois Open Meetings Act requires members of a body bound by the Act must receive annual training. Mr. Stagg will reach out to individual members of the Board to ensure that training is completed.

IX. Public Comments

Badonna Reingold expressed concern about the potential impact sequestration might have on mental health services. She suggested there were a number of problems related to staffing – including how to fill vacancies and address lower productivity. Commissioner Choucair responded that when vacancies arise (due to retirement, etc.) the positions must be filled through the normal staffing process. He also acknowledged that there has been concern about productivity, but consolidation has resulted in improvements and it is an issue that the Department continues to monitor.

Badonna Reingold asked if the Commissioner and the Board were aware of “the crisis in services” related to mental health and asserted that there is inadequate staffing for mental health services staff to conduct proper outreach. The Commissioner said that there has been a definite improvement in productivity over the last year, though further improvement would be desirable.

Badonna Reingold also expressed concerns that the Affordable Care Act does not define how much it will pay for particular services and was concerned that Cook County wouldn't be reimbursed sufficiently to cover the services being provided. The Commissioner responded that the 1115 waiver covers the complete cost of services that were defined in the application according to the payment rates provided in the application.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 a.m.