

Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health Meeting
Wednesday, September 21, 2022
9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
DePaul Center
333 S. State Street, 2nd Floor Boardroom (Room 2002)
Hybrid Meeting

I. Roll Call

Quorum was established based upon the following:

Present In-Person: Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN
Horace E. Smith, MD
Janet Lin, MD, MPH, MBA
Joel Johnson
Oscar Ivan Zambrano, MPH, MBA, CDM
Rosa E. Martinez Colon
Steve Rothschild, MD

Remote Participation: Matthew M. Davis, MD, MPP

Absent: Debra Wesley, MSW

For the Department Allison Arwady, MD, Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH)

II. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Janet Lin, M.D, President.

III. Approval of Minutes

The Board voted and approved the August meeting minutes.

IV. Commissioner's Update

Commissioner Arwady provided the following department wide COVID and non-COVID updates:

- Behavioral Health - We are on track this calendar year to provide 60,000 people who with mental health city services that are city funded and barrier free. Insurance is not required, no immigration requirement, and there is a sliding scale to zero per pay. The trauma informed centers network is where we fund, in addition to our own mental health clinics, federally qualified community health centers, community health centers, and community-based organizations. We plan to have a physical location in every one of the 77 communities by the end of the year.

- Substance Use – This is National Recovery month. Yesterday we hosted a Facebook Live with Dr. Wilnise Jasmine (Medical Director of Behavioral Health, CDPH) and Nicole Gastala (Medical Director of the Substance Use Prevention and Recovery SUPR program, IDHS). In Chicago over the summer, we launched a medication assistance hotline for people interested in getting medication assistance. We can now link people for same day treatment, provide prescriptions over the phone, bring medications to them, and transport people to the pharmacy. We call it Medication Assisted Recovery Now (MAR Now) and it is going very well. The City will be receiving some funding from the National Opioid settlements. The goal is to use that funding to support continued efforts for this issue.
- The City was highlighted by the CDC for being one of the few to take a status neutral approach to HIV services. Historically, people could only access services if they have HIV. When considering a public health prevention standpoint, the department prefers to use the status neutral approach based on the high number of people who are at risk for HIV. This approach can include the use of PrEP medication.
- The department also received national attention for its Monkeypox communications. CDPH’s approach to community education included specific references to same sex partners and advice on safe sex practices with an explicit focus on providing information to LGBTQ communities.
- The City’s budget season is approaching. The Mayor will be likely doing the introduction on October 3rd. The CDPH budget hearing is tentatively scheduled for October 17th. We encourage you to connect with your Alderman and have them understand the importance of continued funding for mental health.

▪ **Board Member Comments & Questions:**

- **Dr. Smith** – The work and the numbers are great. How do we improve cross collaboration communication? We have to use people who have relationships and trusted voices and are already implanted in the communities.
- **Dr. Rothschild** – In terms of funding, public health can often times be a last thought until there is a crisis. We now have an opportunity to build up trust and improve communications and increase community awareness about what and where the resources are.
- **Carmen Vergara** – How is data used and obtained to address community concerns (COVID-19 Dashboard)? With the Data Request Form and the [Chicago Health Atlas](#), we need to do more training so that more people will know how to use it.

V. Board President’s Comments

- Dr. Lin noted the importance of using data-driven approaches. She also mentioned, when collaborating with community-led organizations the department needs to make sure that community organizations are getting the proper credit for the vital role they play in response to community issues. We have to be cognizant of the optics such as highlighting community organizations for what they do.

- Dr. Lin recommended strategizing about ways to think about funding in a diagonal way and how to best leverage some of the more broad based streams that could be utilized for capacity building.
- Dr. Lin thanked the department and the Board for being sensitive to and actively involved in the migrant response.

VI. Presentation

Title: Maternal, Infant, Child, and Adolescent Health (MICAH) Updates
 Jennifer Vidis, Deputy Commissioner/Chief Program Officer
 Jessica Wilkerson, Director of Program Operations
 Sarah Parchem, Program Director
 Chicago Department of Public Health

The presentation provided updates for the Family Connects Chicago program. It described several areas of focus including:

1. Nutrition and WIC
2. Nursing and Support Services,
3. New office of School of Health
4. Lead Poisoning, Prevention and Healthy Homes

Some of the program activities and goals will assess all birthing people, newborns, and family needs. Efforts will be undertaken to provide immediate response through brief interventions, education, and support. Work will be done to establish follow up with medical providers, improve agency and systems coordination to ensure seamless experience for all families, with follow up services. The program uses a braided funding model. Currently, there are three hospitals participating in the program: Humboldt Park Health, Rush Mt. Sinai, and University of Chicago. The program intends to expand to more hospitals some of which include: Resurrection, Swedish Covenant, Illinois Masonic, Advocate Trinity, Roseland, St. Anthony, Northwestern and St. Mary. This expansion is expected to take place by June 2023. The presenter also provided an overview of the Abortion Care Laws in Illinois. Governor JB Pritzker signed the Reproductive Health Act into law in 2019. The law kept abortion legal in Illinois despite overturning Roe v. Wade and allows qualified health care professionals, not solely physicians, to provide care. The Department of Health’s reproductive strategy includes public education, policy advocacy, external provider support, and internal professional development.

Board Member Comments & Questions:

- **Dr. Smith – (Abortion Care)** For the issue of Chicago and parental notification, is there any age restriction?

VII. Public Comments

There were no public comments for this meeting.

VIII. New Business

There was no new business.

IX. Old Business

There was no old business.

X. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:36 am by Dr. Janet Lin.