

Chicago Board of Health  
Meeting Summary November 15, 2017  
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President  
Melanie Dreher, RN, PhD.  
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.  
Joseph B. Starshak  
Juan M. Calderon

Board Members Absent

Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.  
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.  
Horace E. Smith, M.D.  
Victor M. Gonzalez

For the Department

Julie Morita, M.D., Commissioner

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 9:09 a.m. by Dr. Lopez, Board President.

**Approval of Minutes:** The October 2017 minutes were unanimously approved.

**Commissioner's Update:**

*Teen Birth Numbers Hit Another Historic Low.*

Commissioner Morita reported this week Mayor Emanuel announced Chicago teen birthrate hits new historic low following nine years of consecutive declines. Since 2010, Chicago has seen declines in teen births across all racial and ethnic groups. African American teens, who historically face greater disparities regarding teen births, have seen the greatest decline, from more than 72 births per 1,000 to just 35, which represents a more than 51 percent drop overall. Chicago's teen birthrate is higher than the national average but continues to aggressively close the gap, dropping 20 percent more than national rates since 2010. She also informed us that the vast majority of teen pregnancies are unintended and adolescent parenthood is associated with serious health and educational implications. Research has consistently shown that teen birth and unintended pregnancies increase the chance of low birth weight and infant mortality. This decline means an increase in opportunity and empowerment for teens.

Commissioner Morita is especially proud of the work this department leads in our efforts to reduce these numbers, including our Chicago Healthy Adolescents and Teens (CHAT) program, which provides education on birth control, abstinence and healthy relationships in select CPS high schools, in addition to testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. Since March 2015, CHAT has provided sexual health education to more than 32,000 youth and screened more than 18,000 in high schools, colleges and community based organizations throughout the city. In addition, CDPH was a leader in efforts to have CPS institute comprehensive, medically-accurate and age appropriate sexual health education across the district.

*Chicago Ranked One of the Best Cities for Uteruses*

In related news, according to the National Institute of Reproductive Health, Chicago is one of five cities, and the only one in the Midwest, to receive four or more stars in their inaugural Local Reproductive Freedom Index. The index measures a community's commitment to protecting abortion access, funding for and supporting young people's access to reproductive health care, supporting families' ability to be financially stable, inclusive public policies and taking a public stand on reproductive health care at local, state and federal levels.

*Chicago Health Atlas special launch event*

Last week, Commissioner Morita was proud to preview our new and improved Chicago Health Atlas with 100 partners at a special launch event in Pilsen. I hope everyone did their homework from last month and visited the new and improved Chicago Health Atlas at [www.chicagohealthatlas.org](http://www.chicagohealthatlas.org).

*Marketplace Enrollment Kickoff*

November 1 kicked off enrollment for the ACA marketplace. CDPH is a founding member of the Illinois Coalition for Health Access, a group of providers, advocates and organizations leading a

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coordinated enrollment effort across Chicago. CDPH have provided materials regarding enrollment at aldermanic ward offices, city libraries, health clinics, and other city facilities. CDPH is also extremely active on social media, and if any of you would like a copy of our social media toolkit that provides sample tweets and posts that we have distributed to our partners, just let Angelica know. Commissioner Morita also joined our congressional delegation at a kick-off in early November at Stroger hospital and there are a number of other events to promote enrollment through December.

*Puerto Rican Evacuee Support*

The Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS), Chicago Office Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC) are operating a Multiagency Resource Center/Hurricane Resource Center for evacuees from Puerto Rico at the Humboldt Park Field House. CDPH, Alderman Maldonado, local community groups and our very own board member, Juan Calderon are assisting in their efforts. CDPH is onsite coordinating immunizations, psychological first aid training, health referrals and scheduling appointments with community providers. CDPH and our healthcare partners have referred 142 persons to health services. CDPH also received commitments from numerous providers interested in supporting evacuees including Erie Family Health Center, Norwegian American Hospital, Oak Street Health, PCC West Towns and Walgreens. Operations will run from 10 AM - 4 PM, Mondays and Tuesdays through the end of December.

*Nobody Quits*

Nobody Quits Like Chicagoland (NQLC) is a city-wide initiative from November 10th-17th focused on tobacco cessation and lung health for the greater Chicago community. Healthy Chicago 2.0 specifically outlines tobacco control and cessation as a key health need for our community, especially as tobacco use remains the leading cause of preventable death in the United States. Please join our NQLC partners on Friday, November 17th at Inspiration Kitchen 3504 W. Lake Street, for a day focused on the health disparities in tobacco use that negatively impact the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) population.

*Eat Smart Month*

On October 24th, our WIC team attended the Food and Nutrition Conference and Expo sponsored by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The conference featured evidence and information about key issues impacting the nutrition and health of Americans. In celebration of Eat Smart Month, JoAnn Peso, Director of Nutrition in partnership with the American Heart Association will be hosting a cooking demonstration this afternoon, November 15th at 1PM, here at 333 S. State Street 2nd floor Boardroom and you're invited.

*Blood Donation Drive and Resolution*

At the request of Ald. Burke, we have coordinated a City Hall blood drive on November 28 with the Red Cross. Because the FDA prohibits gay and bisexual men from donating blood, we also understand several aldermen will be introducing a resolution calling on the FDA to reverse the policy of prohibiting gay and bisexual men who are sexually active from donating blood. The policy is an anachronism from the early 1980's when little was understood about HIV. Science says there is no need for it today and more blood donations means more lives saved.

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2018 Budget Announcements. Deputy Commissioner Fikirte Wagaw will explain in more detail during her presentation today but excited to announce the following highlights.

- More Chicago children will be protected from lead.
- Chicago increases effort to ensure food safety for residents and tourist.
- City expands environmental protections.
- Chicago expands local fight against opioid epidemic.

Next, Tuesday, November 21<sup>st</sup> city council will vote on the budget.

**Comments by the Board President:** Dr. Lopez welcomed a student and provided an overview of the board's history and explained the board's advisory role in matters of infectious disease and health issues affecting public health. Dr. Lopes also shared that she read on-line an article on Tom Dart, who was recognized for his work around mental health and has made sure his staff is trained on mental health and new staff members need to earn 60 hours of mental health training. This reminds her of how we can do good in public services and to solve public health issues many efforts need to be made in our communities just like a mosaic work of art every piece you work on makes the a whole piece.

**Policy Update:** Jesse Lava provided the following policy updates:

*City Budget*

Much of the policy progress we've made in the last month happened in the Mayor's budget, which passed out of committee over the last week. Fikirte Wagaw will go into detail on these items in her presentation in a moment. My broad overview is that the City is poised to significantly expand our environmental and food safety teams, using increased fees and fines to help defray the cost, as well as a new \$500K annual investment in opioid addiction treatment and services, pending final approval from City Council. I will defer to Fikirte on the rest.

*City Management Ordinance*

Every year there is an ordinance containing numerous small measures to accompany the budget and help make City government run more smoothly. This year CDPH had two measures in the management ordinance that passed out of committee on Monday. The first is on confidential health information. It clarifies that CDPH has the authority to ask organizations for information that may affect health, whether for a foodborne illness outbreak or for a predictive analytic tool that helps us target our interventions. The second is on environmental terminology and other details—like changing the term “air pollution” to “windborne particulate matter” to make enforcement easier in court. These measures are pending passage by the full City Council.

*State: Bill backlog*

At the state level, Comptroller Susana Mendoza is beginning to pay off the backlog of health-related bills from the two-year budget impasse. About \$9 billion will go to hospitals, doctors' offices, nursing homes, pharmacies, and other providers. About \$2.5 billion of that is being applied to Medicaid. There will still be billions more owed to human services providers and other vendors after this round of payments.

*Federal: Tax Reform*

U.S. Senate leaders say their tax reform bill will include repeal of the individual mandate in the Affordable Care Act. Without the mandate, approximately 13 million fewer people would have insurance, according to the Congressional Budget Office. The leaders backing this move include

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Mitch McConnell, Rand Paul, Tom Cotton, John Cornyn, and others.

*Federal: New HHS Nominee*

President Trump has nominated Alex Azar as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He is a drug company executive, formerly the president of Lilly USA. Trump has accused drug companies of “getting away with murder” in setting drug prices. He is replacing Tom Price, who resigned following public awareness of his use of government aircraft for personal travel.

**Presentation:** “CDPH 2018 Budget,” Fikirte Wagaw, First Deputy Commissioner. Gabriel Godwin, Senior Budget Analyst from the Budget Office was present.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** None

**Public Comment:** The following topics were discussed:

- The selection process of board of health members.
- Rates of opioid cases in Chicago can be found online.
- The penalties for selling loose cigarettes.

**Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

**Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 20, 9:00 a.m.**