

Chicago Board of Health
Meeting Summary: January 17, 2018
DePaul Center, 333 South State Street

Roll Call

Board Members Present

Carolyn C. Lopez, M.D., President
Melanie Dreher, RN, PhD.
Caswell A. Evans, Jr., D.D.S., M.P.H.
Victor M. Gonzalez
Steven K. Rothschild, M.D.

Board Members Absent

Adele Joy Cobbs, M.D.
Horace E. Smith, M.D.
Joseph B. Starshak
Juan M. Calderon

For the Department

Julie Morita, M.D., Commissioner

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Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 9:13 a.m.

Approval of Minutes: December 2017 minutes were unanimously approved.

Commissioner's Update: In honor of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday this week, Commissioner Morita began her update with one of her favorite quotes: "Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." — Martin Luther King Jr. Commissioner Morita mentioned, she thought this is a good reminder of CDPH's vision, which is a city of thriving communities where ALL residents are able to live healthier lives. CDPH recognizes the major health disparities along ethnic, sexual orientation and socioeconomic lines, and CDPH remains committed to closing those gaps. As we reflect on 2017 and the work that lies ahead in 2018, I am hopeful and eager to continue our fight, alongside you, for our communities.

Recap significant health improvements reported in 2017:

- **Teen Births:** Chicago's teen birth rate has dropped to 27.5 births per 1,000, the lowest number since CDPH started tracking teen births
- **HIV Diagnoses:** Chicago saw 839 residents newly diagnosed with HIV, the lowest number reported since 1990 and down more than 20% since 2010. This is a significant first step in our new Getting to Zero effort.
- **Breast Health Disparities:** According to a report from the Metropolitan Breast Cancer Task Force, Chicago is the only city with a significant African American population to be effectively closing the gap between black and white women when it comes to breast cancer mortality.
- **Youth Smoking:** The December 2016 survey found that 9.7 percent of 18- to 20-year-olds reported smoking. In 2015, that figure was 15.2 percent, immediately prior to raising the tobacco purchasing age to 21.

2017 National Recognition

CDPH was honored both locally and nationally as a model health department leading through innovative programs, policies and campaigns. Among this year's accolades:

- CityHealth Gold Medal
- Best Place for Your Uterus
- Innovative Health Department of the Year
- Harvard University's Top 25 Innovator

Grants

To date, CDPH has received 31 grant awards in 2017, totaling more than \$83 million for the City. We are awaiting word from both the State and CDC on a handful of remaining 2017 awards.

2018 Reminders to Get Vaccinated

Measles

On January 10, an international traveler with a confirmed case of measles arrived at Chicago O'Hare International Airport and departed on a domestic flight. The Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) issued a press release to inform the public of the situation. As I'm sure you all saw the news frenzy about this, it had the potential to cause a lot of unnecessary alarm. CDPH was available to speak to the media and help lessen any concerns and is working closely with IDPH and the CDC to contact any residents who may have been on the flight. As you may know, the vaccine that protects people from measles is a standard childhood vaccine, and travelers who received the vaccine as a child are generally protected. This is a good reminder about how important it is to ensure the residents of the City of Chicago are fully vaccinated. Note there is no risk to the general public.

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Flu

Influenza activity has increased as reminder; we recommend that people who have not yet received a flu vaccine do so. It would be effective for the rest of the season, which typically lasts through April.

Strengthening Environmental Protection

As the Trump administration rolls back environmental standards, CDPH is adding ten new staff—a 37% increase in our program. The expansion emphasizes air quality through oversight of activities that emit pollutants, helping protect residents from asthma and other health problems. The new inspectors will also help ensure fuel storage tanks are installed properly, dangerous materials are safely stored and businesses are deterred from illegally dumping hazardous waste.

- Updated fees on waste transfer stations and the generation of debris, as well as higher fines on fly dumping and other violations, provide revenue above and beyond the costs of new staff.
- Updated and modified fees for food protection inspections will also provide revenue and beyond the costs of new staff.
- New Efforts to Protect Southeast Side Communities. In late December, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and CDPH announced new efforts to protect Southeast Side communities from air pollution created by industrial facilities. As a result of community feedback and after numerous revisions of the proposal, CDPH has accepted a strict, robust, and protective revised "fugitive dust plan" to increase S.H. Bell's manganese dust control measures and more stringently protect the air quality for residents living near their Southeast Side facility.
- In the revised plan S.H. Bell has agreed to:
 - No longer store manganese outdoors
 - Suspend loading and unloading of manganese during periods of high winds
 - Take significant abatement measures to ensure manganese dust does not leave the facility
 - Construct new on-site equipment to minimize the amount of dust that will leave the facility

CDPH will continue to monitor the facility to ensure continued compliance with city rules and work with the surrounding community. We expect all companies to comply with our strict environmental standards and are prepared to take all appropriate steps necessary to protect our residents. In addition to holding S.H. Bell accountable, CDPH denied a request by Watco for special exemptions from air monitoring requirements in the City's Bulk Material Regulations. Chicago's current bulk material regulations—for storage and handling—are among the strongest in the nation.

Medical Countermeasure Mission

CDPH's Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP) Pharmacists, Alexis Beyer, Michael Robbins and Elisabeth Weber, recently published an article about pre-positioned antibiotics at Chicago hospitals in support of the Medical Countermeasure Mission. We have copies and can email an electronic copy, if you wish.

False Alarm in Hawaii

As a reminder, CDPH works closely with Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC). OEMC provides the City with services to strengthen and protect the lives and property in the City of Chicago. Today, CDPH is offering a Trauma 101 training and OEMC's staff will be in attendance.

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Comments by the Board President: Dr. Lopez mentioned, she had time to ponder on life during the holidays and will explain later during the meeting under New Business. Dr. Lopez welcomed the students and a reporter 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.

Policy Update: Jesse Lava provided the following policy updates:

MSM blood donations

As mentioned last month, Ald. Tunney introduced a resolution with our support calling on the FDA to allow men who have sex with men to donate blood. We have now had a hearing on it, with Antonio King testifying for CDPH, as did groups such as the AIDS Foundation of Chicago, and it passed out of committee unanimously. Ald. Tunney called it “insulting” and Ald. Lopez called it “immoral.”

Flexible supportive housing

The City Council has now passed out of committee an ordinance to create and invest in a flexible housing subsidy pool, which would pair housing subsidies with social services for those who are now homeless. As you know, housing is a root cause of people's health—and Healthy Chicago 2.0 has places a priority on addressing root causes rather than just symptoms of poor health outcomes. The evidence shows supportive housing reduces incarceration, time in shelters, hospital visits, and ambulance runs. Meanwhile, we get better health outcomes and more housing stability. CDPH Managing Deputy Commissioner Megan Cunningham answered questions from aldermen.

Medicaid work requirements

The Trump administration is letting states require Medicaid recipients to get a job. Anyone who is not disabled, a caregiver, or student would be cut off from healthcare unless they are able to find work. Only about 9% of working age Medicaid recipients lack a job and don't fall into one of those exceptions. The figure could be attributable to the difficulty of finding work in certain areas. This change is the latest in a series of steps the administration has taken to weaken the ACA, including shortening the enrollment window, repealing the mandate, expanding access to plans that don't meet quality standards and moving toward allowing insurance companies to sell policies across state lines.

Presentation: “Chronic Disease Prevention,” Kate McMahon, Director of Chronic Disease Prevention & Health Promotion

Old Business: None

New Business: Dr. Lopez explained, earlier she mentioned, she had opportunity to ponder on few items, specifically: how the Board is currently working, new challenges and new board members. The idea of having a board retreat to provide an opportunity for members to discuss and review their work and provide new board members with the tools to better assist CDPH. Dr. Lopez added that it's been a while since the Board had an off-site retreat. Board members supported having a retreat and suggested notifying Jesse Lava or Steve Berlin.

Public Comment: Recommendations to prevent diseases at adult day care: policies, screening questions and telemedicine.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:20 a.m.

Next Board Meeting: Feb 21, 2018, 9:00 a.m.