

**Minutes of the
Chicago Board of Health
Wednesday, May 29, 2024
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM
Damen Building
1340 S. Damen Ave., 4th Floor Training Room (4024)**

I. Roll Call

Quorum was established based upon the following:

Present In-Person: Janet Lin, MD, MPH, MBA
Debra Wesley, MSW
Carmen Vergara, MPH, RN-BSN
Steven Rothschild, MD
Joel Johnson, MEd
Óscar Iván Zambrano, MPH, MBA, CDM

Absent: Horace E. Smith, MD
Rosa Martínez Colón, MS

For the Department: Fikirte Wagaw, MPH, First Deputy Commissioner
Chicago Department of Public Health

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am by Janet Lin, M.D. President.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The Board voted and approved the April minutes.

III. Commissioner's Update

First Deputy Commissioner Wagaw provided the following department wide COVID and non-COVID updates:

- **Measles Update**
 - There have been no new Measles cases since the last community exposure on April 16th, 2024. A CDPH report published by the CDC projected a high probability of an outbreak of over 100 cases without the City's rapid intervention.
- **Rise in Drug Overdoses**
 - A recent spike of Opioid-related overdoses occurred in the Chicago area from May 11 – May 13, 2024. The rise of overdoses concentrated in Chicago's West Side stems from a volatile drug supply that includes the novel adulterant medetomidine.
 - CDPH issued a HAN on May 20th, 2024, regarding Medetomidine in Chicago's drug supply.
 - CDPH used Chicago Fire Department data for a hyperlocal analysis of West Side EMS responses to identify opioid overdose hotspots.
- **Opioid Response Summer Strategy**

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- CDPH launched an emergency response Incident Command Structure led by the Office of Substance Use Medical Director.
- Objectives in the emergency response include:
 - Distribution of Narcan to every household.
 - Street outreach with Westside taskforce and IDHS.
 - Education campaign on Medication-assisted recovery (MAR).
 - 24/7 Helpline for opioids and other substances.
 - Health alert to healthcare providers to initiate medications for opioid use disorder for overdose patients before discharge.
 - Free monthly harm reduction training for the public.
 - Mobilize community, county, state and federal partners including CDC EpiAid.

IV. Departmental Updates:

a. Financial Updates

- Overview of the department's investment in community infrastructure through delegate agency contracts.

b. Staffing Updates

- Overview of departmental job postings, promotions, resignations, and retention rates.

c. Legislative Updates

- Review of City, State, and Federal legislation.

d. Media Updates

- Review of CDPH communication campaigns, media management, digital communications, and community engagement.

Board Member Comments and Questions:

- Comment regarding intervention strategies for non-opioid overdoses that are unsusceptible to Narcan administration.
- Question regarding Narcan kit limits per household.
- Comment advocating for community-based organization partnerships to bolster the department's harm reduction strategies.
- Follow-up comment on integration efforts that consider the correlation between substance abuse and substance use for chronic disease pain management.
- Comment on utilizing the City's wastewater surveillance program as an auxiliary intervention for opioid surveillance.
- Question regarding the City's consideration of safe injection sites and redirection of opioid settlement dollars for current substance abuse efforts.
- Question about Notice of Funding Opportunities, access to dollars by CDPH delegate agencies, and access to the City's advance payment process.

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- Comment on hiring practices that draw out of existing healthcare networks and support the preservation of the existing healthcare landscape.

V. Board President’s Comments:

Dr. Lin comments on current drug and substance testing availability and exploring preventative partnerships to supplement harm reduction efforts.

VI. Presentations:

Department: Chicago Department of Public Health

Title: Family Connects Chicago

Speaker: Jennifer Vidis, Deputy Commissioner
Maternal, Infant, Child and Adolescent Health Bureau

Board Member Comments and Questions:

- Question regarding patient acceptance of the Family Connect program and access to that data.
- Comment on managed care organization integration into the current Family Connects model.
- Comment heralding the success of 43% of the family reach in the Family Connects program.

VII. Public Comments

There was no public comment.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:42 am by Dr. Janet Lin.