

BOARD OF HEALTH COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 21, 2022, 6:00 PM  
Conducted Remotely

Commissioners Present: Noel Chavez (Chair), Judy Carter, Suzanne Feeney, Abigail Silva  
Commissioners Excused: Jennifer Fritz, Susan Buchanan (Trustee Liaison)  
Staff Present: Theresa Chapple, Cindy Hansen, Sara Semelka

**Call to order.** Chair Chavez called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

**Agenda approval.** Dr. Chapple requested the commission first discuss the August and September meeting dates. Commissioner Feeney moved to approve the agenda as corrected, which was seconded by Commissioner Silva. All commissioners present voted in favor.

**Minutes approval.** Commissioner Feeney moved to approve the minutes of the June 28, 2022 meeting, which was seconded by Commissioner Silva. All commissioners present voted in favor.

**Public comment.** No public comments were submitted for this meeting.

**August and September meeting dates.** To accommodate the vaccination clinics schedule, the August meeting will now be Thursday, August 25 at 6:00 pm. The September meeting will now be Thursday, September 29 at 6:00 pm. Chair Chavez cannot attend the September meeting.

**Old Business:**

**IPLAN planning.** Ms. Semelka reported that the core IPLAN group is identifying goals and strategies. We hosted a meeting on July 19 with community stakeholders and shared high-level data. The IPLAN group had brainstormed 10 priority areas and more were added, including mental health and substance use, aging population and isolation among seniors, access to care, community safety, and gun violence.

Attendees voted on which areas best fulfill the IPLAN vision, which are most critical, and which are most feasible. We developed four broad topic areas—community safety/environmental health, mental health and substance use, gun violence, and access to care.

We will host two virtual feedback sessions, tentatively scheduled for August 9 and 22 at 6:00 pm. Ms. Semelka will share meeting invitations with commissioners once confirmed. We will also schedule working group meetings to create smart goals and objectives and identify partners.

Chair Chavez noted some of the data presented at the meeting, such as our community having higher mortality rates than Cook County for several health outcomes. Ms. Semelka affirmed the data is ours to mine, even if it doesn't make it into the IPLAN.

Village leadership would like a two-pager by the end of August explaining the goals and strategies we plan to use. The consultant will write the findings in September with the goal of submitting the IPLAN to IDPH by October. The commission will review a draft IPLAN with the consultant at our August meeting.

Dr. Chapple encouraged commissioners to attend the feedback sessions and working groups and let us know if they have expertise on a topic area or know someone, particularly gun violence. Commissioner Silva requested a write-up to share with her networks. Dr. Chapple confirmed we can send one next week.

**Staffing update.** Dr. Chapple reported that we hired a public health nurse to start on Monday. She has contracted with us for the past two years. Our Emergency Preparedness and Response Coordinator left in early July. The position is posted on the Village website.

**Open positions on the commission.** Chair Chavez spoke with the Clerk's office on the commission's two open positions. They have not yet reached out to the candidates we recommended but they said they will. The Clerk's office has not yet received a resignation letter from Wynne Lacey. Ms. Hansen received an email from Ms. Lacey in April about her resignation and will forward it again to the Clerk's office.

**COVID vaccinations and testing.** Dr. Chapple reported that the Village is doing many COVID-19 vaccinations since they were approved for children under age five. We host clinics every Tuesday and we need more volunteers. Commissioners are encouraged to tap into their networks for people who are good with young children. We expect an increase in boosters for children ages five to 11 before school starts.

We are testing throughout the community, including Wednesdays at the Firehouse, Thursday Night Out, and Saturdays at the Farmer's Market. The mobile van offers testing at different locations and events and we have tested as many as 250 in one week. We serve as a back-up for schools that may no longer be testing. We are working with a communications firm to get these messages out by early to mid-August.

#### **New Business:**

**Local schools tobacco policy coalition work.** Ms. Semelka said we received the Illinois Tobacco-Free Communities grant. The core component is to enforce the Smoke Free Illinois Act. We applied to do an enhancement around tobacco and vaping education with youth and to review school policies. We can assemble a coalition to make recommendations to school boards based on best practices.

Dr. Chapple requested the Commission help review policies, lead the coalition, and make recommendations. Quarter one will be having conversations about who the coalition will be. Quarter two will be reviewing policies. Quarter three will be presenting recommendations to school boards. We are not required to adopt a new policy. We have to report on our progress and we can reapply next year.

Chair Chavez requested clarification on the Commission's role. Dr. Chapple responded that the Commission is being asked to participate as a whole, though not every commissioner needs to attend every meeting. We can discuss this at our current meetings, with homework in-between to review policies. Village staff can help research local policies. The commission would make recommendations.

Chair Chavez asked the commissioners present if they are willing to participate. Commissioner Silva asked what is on the agenda for the next six months. Dr. Chapple responded that we can eliminate

COVID-19 and staffing updates to be able to dedicate 30 minutes to this topic at each meeting. IPLAN updates will also be shorter. Commissioner Feeney is willing to facilitate conversations. Ms. Semelka will share information with the commission and Chair Chavez said we can begin the discussion next month.

**Food insecurity.** Ms. Semelka said our community survey included a question about access to food. 88% of respondents said they are never concerned about running out of food, though 10% said they are concerned about a quarter of the time. 1.1% said they are concerned 50% or 75% of the time.

Food security is an issue in our community. Food access is part of the Village's Climate Plan. The health department is being tapped to be involved in tasks and goals around food security including establishing a task force to develop an affordability strategy for community-supported agriculture and local sustainable food. There's an item around collaborating with health and community advocates to promote sustainable food systems and nutritional practices that reduce the global environmental impact of unsustainable food production, and then identifying opportunities to reduce food waste from restaurants and grocery stores.

Dr. Chapple sees a tie-in with the Farmer's Market that the health department runs. We could add an educational component to talk about healthy and sustainable foods and ways to eliminate food waste. The Market is just one seasonal part-time position. We would need increased staffing to accomplish this.

Chair Chavez recognized the department's limitations and sees room for collaboration. We accept Link coupons at the Market and some markets and CSAs offer reduced prices. Commissioner Carter inquired about community gardens. Ms. Semelka confirmed they are in the Climate Plan. Chair Chavez likes the idea and has experience teaching container gardening. Commissioner Carter likes the idea of producing food rather than just education. She suggested having a way for residents to contribute excess from their own gardens. Ms. Semelka added that community fridges also exist in the community.

Chair Chavez recommended working with Beyond Hunger. Ms. Semelka confirmed that the Village has a relationship with Beyond Hunger and they will come to the Market starting next week to collect extra produce that vendors would like to donate to be redistributed.

**Adjourn.** Commissioner Carter moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Commissioner Feeney. All commissioners present voted to adjourn. Chair Chavez adjourned the meeting at 6:58 pm.