

CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF HEALTH

Thursday, October 12, 2017

The Philadelphia Board of Health held a public meeting on Thursday, October 12, 2017 in the Municipal Services Building, 1401 J.F.K. Boulevard, 14th Floor, Room 1450.

Board Members Present: Tyra Bryant-Stephens, MD; Thomas Farley, MD, MPH; Marla J. Gold, MD; Jennifer Ibrahim, PhD, MPH; Scott McNeal, DO; John Rich, MD, MPH.

Attendees: Raynard Washington, Josh Roper, David Truscello, Jeff Hom, Natalie Kotkin.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:

Health Commissioner and Board President Thomas A. Farley, MD, MPH called the meeting to order at 5:40 PM, welcoming the Board and guests. Dr. Farley asked for comments and questions about the minutes of the meeting of the Board of Health held on June 8, 2017. Hearing none, he entertained a motion to approve the minutes as submitted. It was moved and seconded. **Motion passed.**

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SCREENING:

Dr. Raynard Washington, Chief Epidemiologist for the Department, presented on the need for expanded data reporting concerning early childhood development. He explained the importance of early childhood developmental data and its predictive power for adult health. He noted that the Department can generally access health data from reporting at birth and when a child attends school, but during the intervening years there is limited health data available. He described this currently unavailable data as an “invaluable tool” for public health activities in Philadelphia.

Dr. Washington described *A Running Start -- Health*, a citywide plan to improve early childhood health and reduce health disparities. He explained how early childhood developmental screening data could be used to support *A Running Start -- Health*. In particular, he noted the value of standardized health survey tools, such as the Survey of Well-being of Young Children, or “SWYC,” which pediatricians increasingly use.

Dr. Washington summarized the content of the *Regulation Relating to Early Childhood* (the “Regulation”), explaining that it would require providers who collect standardized early childhood developmental screening data and store it electronically to report that data to the Department. Dr. Farley proposed amending the draft Regulation to add gender at birth to the list of fields to be reported by providers. It was moved that the draft Regulation be so amended and the motion was seconded. **Motion passed.**

Dr. Farley and members of the Board discussed the opportunities for and challenges of using collected data to inform targeted health interventions. They also discussed the potential for additional providers in Philadelphia to adopt the SWYC.

Dr. Farley further proposed amending the draft Regulation to add residential address to the list of fields to be reported by providers. It was moved that the draft Regulation be so amended and the motion was seconded. **Motion passed.**

It was moved that the Regulation be approved as amended. Motion seconded. **Motion passed.**

Dr. Farley adjourned the meeting at 6:30 PM.