



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



3530 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1140 • Los Angeles, CA 90010 • TEL (213) 738-2816 • FAX (213) 637-4748
HIVCOMM@LACHIV.ORG • <http://hiv.lacounty.gov> ORG • VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING

Presence at virtual meetings is recorded based on the attendance roll call. Only members of the Commission on HIV are accorded voting privileges and must verbally acknowledge their attendance in order to vote. Approved meeting minutes are available on the Commission's website; meeting recordings are available upon request.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

March 25, 2021

COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
P = Present A = Absent			
Bridget Gordon, Co-Chair	P	Carlos Moreno	P
David Lee, MPH, LCSW, Co-Chair	P	Katja Nelson, MPP	P
Raquel Cataldo	P	Mario Pérez, MPH	P
Frankie Darling-Palacios	P	Juan Preciado	A
Erika Davies	P	Kevin Stalter	P
Lee Kochems, MA	P	Justin Valero, MA	P
COMMISSION STAFF AND CONSULTANTS			
Cheryl Barrit, Dawn Mc Clendon, Carolyn Echols-Watson, and Sonja Wright Catherine LaPointe and Malik Ogunlade, Academic Interns			
DHSP STAFF			
Julie Tolentino, MPH			

*Some participants may not have been captured electronically. Attendance can be corrected by emailing the Commission.
*Members of the public may confirm their attendance by contacting Commission staff at hivcomm@lachiv.org.
*Meeting minutes may be corrected up to one year from the date of approval.

Meeting agenda and materials can be found on the Commission's website at
http://hiv.lacounty.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=cgGhOYHKI_Q%3d&portalid=22

CALL TO ORDER-INTRODUCTIONS-CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

- Bridget Gordon, Co-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. Ms. Gordon reviewed housekeeping reminders.
- Committee Members introduced themselves and stated their Ryan White Program HIV care and/or Center for Disease Control (CDC) prevention conflicts of interest.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION #1: Approve the Agenda Order, as presented (*Passed by Consensus*).

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION #2: Approve the Executive Committee Meeting Minutes, as presented (*Passed by Consensus*).

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

- 3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS COMMISSION ON ITEMS OF INTEREST WITHIN COMMISSION JURISDICTION:** There were no comments.

III. COMMITTEE NEW BUSINESS ITEMS

- 4. OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO RECOMMEND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS, OR ITEMS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ACTION DUE TO AN EMERGENCY, OR IF NEED FOR ACTION AROSE AFTER POSTING AGENDA:** There were no new items.

IV. REPORTS

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT

A. Commission/County Operational Updates

- Cheryl Barrit, Executive Director, reported that the Executive Office has expressed that its priority is in the County's robust vaccination effort and is currently assessing its reconstitution plan to reopen offices via a phased-in and hybrid work structure approach ensuring the health and safety of its employees.
- Ms. Barrit indicated that there are no current directives provided by the Executive Office to open the office to the public. However, Ms. Barrit will continue to provide updates as they are communicated by the Executive Office.
- Lastly, Ms. Barrit shared that the Commission office has been updated to include appropriate seat spacing in the lobby, plexiglass in high traffic areas, and a door to divide the public area from the staffing area.

B. Commission and Committee Activities

- 2021 Work Plan. Ms. Barrit referred to the work plan in the packet and directed attention to the revisions of #3. Ms. Barrit indicated that there is an opportunity to take a step back to better understand the Commission's role as planners regarding the implementation and operationalization of the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Plan. She encouraged the Committee to ask the question, "What do you need to fully understand your role as a Commissioner to fully understand and implement the EHE?"
 - Justin Valero added and inquired, how can we understand our blind spots and measure active engagement of Ryan White Program (RWP) providers and non-RWP providers; how do we engage the private health plans.
 - Kevin Stalter expressed that the EHE Plan doesn't seem to offer any new or innovative prescribed strategies and expressed concerns over lack of activism in reauthorizing the Ryan White Program legislation
 - Ms. Gordon inquired how can we incorporate strategies within the EHE Plan to ensure RWP services are more accessible and user-friendly to those accessing HIV care and treatment.

6. CO-CHAIR REPORT

- A. March 11, 2021 COH Meeting | FOLLOW UP + FEEDBACK.** No feedback provided.
- B. “So You Want to Talk About Race?” Book Reading Activity.** David Lee led the Commission in reading Chapter 1.
- C. April 8, 2021 (Draft) Commission Meeting Agenda | REVIEW + FEEDBACK.** No feedback provided.
- D. COH Letter Re: COVID-19 Vaccination for People Living with HIV | UPDATE.**
- Ms. Gordon shared the letter was sent to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and Governor Gavin Newsome’s office, which to date, no responses have been received. Ms. Gordon also shared that she provided public comment at the most recent Board of Supervisors meeting requesting that the BOS respond.
 - Katja Nelson and Mario J. Pérez shared that providers are using their discretion in prioritizing vaccinations for people living with HIV and are applying the CDC guidance liberally.
 - Ms. Nelson further reported that the Governor announced that beginning April 1, 2021, all those 50+ will be eligible for the vaccine and beginning April 16, 2021, those 16+ will be eligible.
 - Mr. Pérez announced that the Department of Public Health (DPH) is holding an All-Staff meeting at 1pm to discuss the next phase of COVID-19 vaccinations, among other topics. DHSP staff will attend and report back on any pertinent information.
 - Mr. Pérez reported there will be a substantial increase in vaccine supply and accessibility during April-May; the County expected to administer 600,000 vaccines per week and indicated the next couple of weeks will be crucial to getting more people vaccinated.
- E. Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV (MIPA).** Ms. Gordon emphasized the importance of those who were not able to attend the [March 15, 2021 special Women’s Caucus presentation](#) by Venita Ray, Co-Executive Director, Positive Women’s Network and Caucus members Shary Alonzo, Jayda Arrington and Shonté Daniels on Meaningful Involvement of People Living with HIV (MIPA) to check out the recording on the Commission’s website at <http://hiv.lacounty.gov/Events>; the PowerPoint (PPT) presentation slides are located in the packet.
- F. HealthHIV/COH Effectiveness Assessment Survey | REMINDER.**
- Ms. Gordon strongly encouraged members who have yet to complete the survey to do so as soon as possible, and to reach out to each other as a reminder to complete the survey.
 - As reported by HealthHIV, only 33 responses have been received to date and 100% participation is necessary for this effort to be meaningful and reflective.
 - Ongoing reminders have been sent out by staff and HealthHIV; another round of reminders forthcoming.
 - On a separate note, Ms. Gordon referenced and denounced the increase of racial violence against the Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in the wake of COVID-19 and noted that the Commission has issued a statement in solidarity with the AAPI community which can be found on the Commission’s website at:
<http://hiv.lacounty.gov/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=OXtBPTm3n7Q%3d&portalid=22> .

7. DIVISION OF HIV AND STD PROGRAMS (DHSP) REPORT

A. Fiscal, Programmatic, and Procurement Updates

- Mario J. Pérez, Director, DHSP, responded to previous inquiries regarding So. California Kaiser Permanente – Romaine and Sunset locations – application to be approved as a Medi-Cal pharmacy site and indicated although DHSP doesn't have a direct role in designating ADAP pharmacy sites, it will continue to assist and triangulate efforts between the State Office of AIDS (OA) and the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS). DHSP is awaiting confirmation from OA on the status of Kaiser-Romaine's application.
- Mr. Pérez reported that DHSP is working to maximize the RWP Part A, B and MAI program resources as well as revenue tied to two (2) EHE grants and will report back to the Commission once that exercise has been completed.
- Additionally, Mr. Pérez reported that DHSP will be working on the 2021 year-end fiscal and budget activities and will present to the Commission once finalized.
- Mr. Pérez noted that while there are aggressive deadlines for providers to submit their invoices, in the face of COVID-19, invoice submission has been slow thus causing delay in wrapping up year-end fiscal expenditures.
- Lastly, Mr. Pérez reported that he attended the last Black African American Community (BAAC) Task Force meeting to work with BAAC in addressing recommendations and expressed his commitment to meeting more frequently to accelerate discussions and create momentum in addressing the recommendations in a timely manner.
- Will work with Commission staff to coordinate schedules for follow-up meetings.

(1) Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) Updates

- Mr. Pérez reported that 96 EFA applications have been submitted to date with the Alliance for Housing and Healing receiving a slightly higher percentage of applications than Housing for Health.
- Of the 96 applications received, 40 have been approved with checks to be issued as quickly as possible, 53 pending review, one (1) denial, and two (2) withdrawal.
- Mr. Pérez reported that the state has announced release of its rental support program and that DHSP will be working with Maribel Ulloa @ HOPWA to develop a one-page resource sheet to provide the community an "all in one" resource guide detailing the state's rental support program, HOPWA's resources and DHSP's EFA program; resource guide forthcoming.

B. Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Activities

- Julie Tolentino, EHE Coordinator, DHSP, thanked everyone for providing input on EHE efforts.
- Ms. Tolentino referenced a recent conversation with Ms. Barrit, Ms. Gordon, and Mr. Lee regarding strategizing ways to present the EHE in a more palatable way, to encourage understanding and engagement among Commission members. It was agreed that specific EHE-related topics would be agendaized for upcoming committee and working group meetings to provide built-in time allowing members to provide input on the EHE Plan, specifically the pillars, i.e. HIV testing.
- Ms. Tolentino further reported that DHSP is excited to announce that the agency selected for the Community Engagement Mobilization contract is AMAAD, utilizing LAC+USC as its fiscal agent. The item was on the recent Health Deputy agenda and is slated to go before the BOS at

B. Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Activities (cont'd)

its April meeting. Additionally, contract negotiations with AMAAD are underway to discuss scope of work, to include recruitment efforts to ensure people living with HIV are appropriately reflected. Ms. Tolentino shared that a presentation with an overview of the goals and expectations of the Community Engagement Mobilization project will be provided to the Commission soon.

- Ms. Tolentino mentioned she attended the recent Prevention Planning Workgroup (PPW) and was pleased to see the energy around prevention planning, and noted that DHSP is working with the County's Substance Abuse and Control (SAPC) Program to expand and increase capacity of agencies addressing substance use under the EHE initiatives.
- Ms. Tolentino reported that DHSP is working with HRSA Technical Assistance (TA) which is funded under the EHE to receive feedback on its mental health assessment survey which is slated to be administered in July and will be a comprehensive assessment developed in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health (DMH), targeting both client and provider level responses. Upon completion, DHSP intends to incorporate some of the recommendations into its programming.
- Ms. Tolentino further reported that DHSP is working with the same HRSA TA to draft a contingency management pilot program which is a program designed to provide financial incentives to engage people and link them to services. DHSP's focus will be on linkage and retention to support women, Trans individuals and youth who are out of care and to assist with viral suppression.
- Lastly, Ms. Tolentino expressed her ongoing availability to those who would like additional information and support around EHE efforts, and to contact her at JTolentino@ph.lacounty.gov.

8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Operations Committee

(1) Membership Management

- Carlos Moreno, Co-Chair, reported that the Committee welcomed its newest member, Felipe Findley.
- Mr. Moreno further reported that the Committee met this morning and discussed members with excessive unexcused absences – Eduardo Martinez and Tony Spears – and the corrective action that the Committee has taken via attendance letters. While Mr. Martinez responded and expressed his interest to remain a Commission member and has subsequently attended meetings appropriately, Mr. Spears has not. The Committee will be discussing next steps at its next meeting.
- Lastly, Mr. Moreno shared the Committee was reminded to complete the HealthHIV survey and, if applicable, to attend the New Member Welcome Orientation on March 30, 2021 at 10am-12pm.

(2) Membership Application Redevelopment | UPDATES

- Mr. Moreno reported the Committee reviewed the most recent draft of the revised Membership Application and was able to receive constructive feedback from both members and the public. The Committee hopes to review the final draft at its next meeting in April.

(3) Outreach, Retention and Community Engagement Strategies and Efforts. No updates provided.

B. Planning, Priorities, and Allocations (PP&A) Committee .

(1) Priority Setting and Resource Allocation (PSRA) Training

- Frankie Darling-Palacios, Co-Chair, reported that the Committee received training on the Priority Setting and Resource Allocation (PSRA) process at its last meeting, performed the reading activity of “So You Want to Talk About Race,” and discussed the BAAC recommendations and the Committee’s progress in addressing them.

(2) Prevention Planning Activities

- Frankie reported that the Prevention Planning Workgroup (PPW) leadership met on March 18, 2021 to prepare for the March 22, 2021 PPW meeting which will be held in the evening at 5:30-7pm to accommodate schedules.

C. Standards and Best Practices (SBP) Committee

(1) Child Care and Language Services Provider Survey | UPDATE

- Erika Davies, Co-Chair, reported that the Committee continues to place the Child Care service standard on hold until the Child Care Provider Survey results have been shared by DHSP.

(2) 2021 Service Standards | REVIEW

- Ms. Davies reported the Committee will continue to review Home Based Case Management, Benefit Specialty, and Substance Use Residential Treatment service standards as a part of their 2021 service standard review process.
- The Committee will also discuss drug Medi-Cal and have invited a presentation from Safe Refuge and Tarzana Treatment Center on their substance abuse programs at its next meeting.

D. Public Policy Committee

(1) County, State, and Federal Policy and Legislation

- Katja Nelson, Co-Chair, welcomed two new members beginning April 5 – Gerald Garth and Isabella Rodriguez.
- Ms. Nelson shared that the Act Now Meth townhall was held recently and indicated that the Committee will continue to monitor the outcome to determine next steps and will keep this issue as a standing agenda item.
- Ms. Nelson reminded the Committee that there is still a STD crisis and that efforts to revitalize the discussion to include the draft letter to the BOS must be initiated.

A. 2021 COH Policy Priorities **MOTION #3 (✓Passed by Consensus)**

- Ms. Nelson presented the 2021 Policy Priorities for approval and solicited feedback.
- Ms. Nelson thanked staff Carolyn Echols-Watson for the incredible work performed in developing the document.
- Ms. Nelson noted that prior versions of the Policies Priorities are usually concise, however, this year, to infuse a cultural, racial and social equity and justice lens, the document is much more expansive and includes key priorities such as racism, housing, mental health, sexual health, substance use, consumers and empowerment, aging, women, trans-individuals , general healthcare and service delivery, criminalization, and data (privacy and distributing resources)

- Ms. Gordon inquired into Proposition 209 which prohibits state governmental institutions from considering race, sex, or ethnicity, specifically in the areas of public employment, public contracting, and public educations and essentially prohibits any equitable relief for those experiencing discrimination based on race, gender, age, sexual orientation, etc. in school admissions, hiring, accessing social services, etc.
- Although this item extends far beyond the scope of the Committee, Lee Kochems, Co-Chair, suggested that the item be taken back to the Committee to discuss potential strategies in addressing Proposition 209.
- Mr. Pérez congratulated the Committee for capturing many of the priorities and recommended that it identify the top priorities to create more utility. Additionally, Mr. Pérez suggested that the Committee consider modifying the document after the upcoming 2020 HIV/STD Surveillance Report is released. Mr. Pérez noted that there is some surveillance data that is captured reflecting specific subpopulations while other data is more general in nature. He expressed that some of the priorities should more explicit to better address the needs of subpopulations, i.e. 50+ PLWH and the Trans community.
- Ms. Nelson indicated that she would take Mr. Pérez' recommendations back to the Committee for discussion.
- The 2021 Policies Priorities, once approved, will be elevated to the April 8, 2021 Commission meeting for final approval.

(2) County, State, and Federal Budget

- Ms. Nelson reported that Xavier Becerra was confirmed by Governor Newsome as Director for the state's Department of Health and Human Services, and Ron Bonta appointed as the new Attorney General.
- Ms. Nelson further reported that federal earmarks ended in 2011 are back; agencies and providers are discussing strategies to promote pilot programs around health and social determinants of health and encouraged members to reach out to their local representatives to promote similiar initiatives. Will keep the Committee updated.
- Ms. Nelson reported that \$2.6 million in federal funds are being allocated toward AB3088 which includes a program designed to provide rental assistance support. Applications for assistance will be accepted until funding runs out.
- Ms. Nelson shared that the Committee continues to work on its 2021 Legislative Docket and encouraged those who would like legislative bills considered to contact Ms. Nelson or Mr. Kochems. The Committee hopes to finalize the docket at its April 5, 2021 meeting.
- The Committee also continues to work with the Transgender Caucus on AB-2218, the Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund and is keeping tabs on the EHE statewide budget proposals.

9. CAUCUS, TASK FORCE, AND WORK GROUP REPORTS

A. Aging Task Force – 3/6/21, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

- Ms. Barrit reported that the next meeting will be held April 6, 2021.
- Ms. Barrit reported that the Task Force is currently reviewing different models of comprehensive care for older people living with HIV to determine best practices.
- Ms. Barrit further reported that the Task Force is reviewing CPT codes often used in billing to better understand gerontology care in determining what kind of age-appropriate assessments are needed to enhance the RWP system of care.
- The Task Force continues to work with Wendy Garland, DHSP, on requested data and for feedback on its recommendations.
- The Task Force planned a virtual educational event on ageism in partnership with SCAN for May 6, 2021; registration can be accessed [here](#). The event will provide understanding and awareness on implicit bias and aging.
- Danielle Campbell inquired whether the Task Force has considered inclusion of those born with HIV; they are usually left out of the aging conversation. Ms. Barrit suggested that Ms. Campbell reach out to Al Ballesteros, Co-Chair, to initiate that conversations with the Task Force.

B. Black/African American Community (BAAC) Task Force - 3/22/2021, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

- Ms. Campbell, Co-Chair, provided the following report:
 - BAAC met with DHSP at its meeting on March 22, 2021. The meeting was well attended.
 - DHSP provided an overview of their efforts and activities in addressing the BAAC recommendations and engaged the task force in how we can work together to best address the recommendations. Items discussed/presented included:
 - Incorporating a mandatory training curriculum addressing implicit bias, cultural sensitivity, and other topics in new and renewing DHSP awarded contracts
 - A comprehensive Implicit Bias training for providers which BAAC will review at its next meeting and provide additional feedback
 - Utilizing existing funding to develop culturally appropriate promotional marketing for PrEP in the Black/AA communities
 - Creating and developing a Request for Proposal for PrEP Centers of Excellence for women
 - Technical assistance for minority-based community-based organizations
 - The BAAC and DHSP will continue to meet on a regular basis to address the recommendations.
 - The next meeting will be Monday, April 26 @ 1-3pm.

C. Consumer Caucus - 3/8/2021, 3:00 – 4:30 pm

- Alasdair Burton, Co-Chair, shared the Caucus engaged in a productive discussion in response to the parliamentarian training provided by Jim Stewart.
- Mr. Burton also reported that the Caucus is finalizing planning for the NMAC BLOC training for May 17-20, 2021.
- Lastly, Mr. Burton shared that the next meeting will be April 8, 2021 and the Caucus is still recruiting a third Co-Chair. If anyone is interested, to contact Mr. Burton, Jayda Arrington, or Commission staff. Additionally, more consumers are encouraged to attend the Caucus meetings.

D. Women's Caucus - 3/15/2021, 2:00 – 4:00 pm

- Ms. Barrit shared that the Caucus held a special presentation on Meaningful Involvement for People Living with HIV (MIPA) and the recording is available on the Commission's website at <http://hiv.lacounty.gov/Events>.
- The next Caucus meeting will be April 19 @ 2-4pm.

E. Transgender Caucus - 3/23/2021, 10:00 am – 12:00 noon

- Ms. Barrit reported that the Caucus met this past Tuesday and agreed to meet every other month; next meeting will be May 25, 2021 at 10am-12pm.
- At its next meeting, the Caucus will focus on training around how the Commission makes decisions and how they can leverage the power of the Caucus to work with various Committees and working groups to ensure Trans voices are reflected in discussions and planning.
- The Caucus will continue to discuss strategies on how to support AB-2218, the Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund with the assistance of the Public Policy Committee.

V. NEXT STEPS

10. TASK/ASSIGNMENTS RECAP:

- Continue reading of "So You Want to Talk About Race" according to monthly assignment
- Continue draft meeting agenda reviews for upcoming Commission meetings
- Update COH work plan appropriately according to feedback and add an item for discussion on next agenda on how we can improve the Ryan White Program system.

11. AGENDA DEVELOPMENT FOR NEXT MEETING: There were no additional items.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

12. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS: There were none.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

13. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:02pm.