



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



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While not required of meeting participants, signing-in constitutes public notice of attendance. Presence at meetings is recorded solely based on sign-in sheets, and not signing-in constitutes absence for Commission members. Only members of the Commission on HIV are accorded voting privileges, thus Commissioners who have not signed in cannot vote. Sign-in sheets are available upon request.

**PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

January 13, 2020



The Public Policy Committee acts in accordance with the role of the Commission on HIV, as dictated by Los Angeles County Code 3.29.090. Consistent with Commission Bylaws Article VI, Section 2, no Ryan White resources are used to support Public Policy Committee activities.

MEMBERS PRESENT	MEMBERS ABSENT	PUBLIC	COMM STAFF/ CONSULTANTS
Aaron Fox, MPM, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Pamela Coffey (<i>Full to Burton</i>)	Robert Gamboa	Cheryl Barrit, MPIA
Katja Nelson, MPP, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Jerry D. Gates, PhD		Jane Nachazel
Alasdair Burton (<i>Alt. to Coffey</i>)	Lee Kochems, MA	DPH/DHSP STAFF	Julie Tolentino, MPH
Nestor Rogel (<i>Alt.</i>)	Eduardo Martinez (<i>Alt.</i>)	None	
Ricky Rosales	Craig Scott		
Martin Sattah, MD			

CONTENTS OF COMMITTEE PACKET

- 1) **Agenda:** Public Policy Committee Agenda, *1/13/2020*
- 2) **Minutes:** Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, *10/7/2019*
- 3) **Minutes:** Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, *11/4/2019*
- 4) **Minutes:** Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, *12/2/2019*
- 5) **Priorities:** 2019 Policy Priorities, *Approved 4/11/2019*
- 6) **Memorandum:** State Legislative Agenda for the Second Year of the 2019-20 Session, *12/18/2019*
- 7) **Memorandum:** End the Epidemics 2020-21 State Budget Priorities
- 8) **Letter:** End the HIV, HCV, and STD Epidemics in California, *12/19/2019*
- 9) **Announcement:** Governor Newsom Previews \$1 Billion in Budget Proposal to Jump-Start New Homeless Fund and Provide Behavioral Health Services, Signs Order to Accelerate State Action to Fight Homelessness, *1/8/2020*
- 10) **Table:** FY2020 Appropriations for Federal HIV/AIDS Programs, *12/16/2019*

CALL TO ORDER-INTRODUCTIONS-CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS: Ms. Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:10 pm.

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 10/7/2019, 11/4/2019, and 12/2/2019 Public Policy 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 items.

IV. REPORTS

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT

a. 2020 Committee Meeting Schedule:

- Ms. Barrit noted one Annual Meeting request was to host more decision-makers for policy-oriented discussions with leadership from, e.g., Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA), Chief Executive Office (CEO) Homeless Initiative, and Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA). Staff are working to develop the schedule.
 - Mr. Gamboa asked about collaboration between LAHSA and the Black/African American Community (BAAC) Task Force. He also expressed concern about inclusion of language specific to transgender people.
 - Ms. Barrit said there is a smaller group with representatives from Los Angeles County (LAC), the City of Los Angeles, and LAHSA to better collaborate with the Coordinated Entry System (CES) so that it responds to needs of PLWH. LAHSA has been amenable to the suggestion that, since Medical Care Coordination (MCC) clients have already been assessed as high acuity, they should not need to go through additional assessment before being triaged up.
 - Ms. Nelson met with a Homeless Deputy the prior week and suggested the street outreach Multi-Disciplinary Teams (MDTs) add an HIV question to their mental assessment. The Homeless Deputy and LAHSA staff have asked for help in developing a question that is effective, but not stigmatizing or uncomfortable. She offered to relay the request to the larger Commission to see if there were agencies with staff who could work on it. The same issue has arisen with the sole remaining HIV-related question on the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT).
 - Regarding Public Policy, Ms. Barrit noted it has been proposed to reduce regular meetings once the Legislative Docket is finalized. Instead, members could engage in more advocacy such as meetings with Board Offices.
- ➡ Ms. Nelson will relay the request for assistance in crafting MDT survey and VI-SPDAT questions to the Commission.

b. Ending the HIV Epidemic (EtHE) Updates:

- ➡ Add column to Legislative Docket that indicates alignment of a bill with Ending the HIV Epidemic (EtHE).

6. CO-CHAIR REPORT

- Ms. Nelson reviewed the Work Plan and noted one change to Item 3, STD Motion Follow-up. One category of the Request For Proposals (RFP) has been delayed from the 1/1/2020 start date due to protests from a couple of agencies.
- ➡ Ms. Tolentino will update the Public Policy Committee Work Plan.

a. Committee Co-Chair Election:

- Lee Kochems, MA and Katja Nelson, MPP were the only two Committee Members who were nominated and accepted.
- MOTION #3:** Elect Lee Kochems, MA and Katja Nelson, MPP as Co-Chairs, 2020 term, for the Public Policy Committee, as nominated (*Passed by Consensus*).

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY (BAAC) TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATION

- Ms. Barrit noted the Public Policy Committee's Policy Priorities focus on Social Determinants of Health (SDH) is consistent with BAAC Task Force recommendations pertaining to implicit bias. The Task Force is aware most of their recommendations are programmatic and, consequently, more directed to DHSP's contracting role.
 - Ms. Nelson offered to attend the next BAAC Task Force meeting to explore support options, but the date was not yet set.
- ➡ Ms. Nelson will follow-up with Assemblywoman Sydney Kamlager-Dove who put forward a bill last year addressing maternal health disparities to identify any bills she might be proposing for this session that address implicit bias topics.
- ➡ Begin to incorporate bills into Legislative Docket that pertain to implicit bias.

8. COUNTY POLICY UPDATE

- Ms. Nelson reported St. Vincent Medical Center (SVMC) was being closed. The 366-bed facility is the oldest hospital in Los Angeles, founded 6/21/1869. It has over 1,000 employees and serves 14,000 Emergency Room (ER) patients per year. Providers she spoke with felt lost beds can be absorbed by other facilities although it will leave a geographic gap in services.
- In 2015, SVMC, St. Francis Medical Center, and two hospitals outside LAC were purchased by a hedge fund and organized as Verity Health. More recently, an attempt to sell the system to a real estate company fell through. That prompted a request to bankruptcy court, submitted and approved last week, to close SVMC. The goal is to close the ER within two to three days and complete closure of hospital services by the end of January. There is no current request to close the other facilities.
- ➡ Ms. Nelson will follow-up on the SVMC closure including any response from LAC such as possible alternate uses.
- a. **Housing:**
 - Ms. Nelson noted the 2020 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count will be 1/21-23/2020. More volunteers are welcome.
 - The City of Los Angeles opened its first supportive housing site funded by Measure HHH. Located at 88th and Vermont, the 62-unit site, 14 for those with very low incomes, will house veterans, transition age youth, and the homeless.
 - Mr. Rosales noted more projects were in the pipeline but, in general, delays from neighborhood resistance slow work.
 - Regarding selection for units, Mr. Gamboa said acuity plays a key role along with vouchers and lotteries.
 - ➡ Request this year's survey questions for review; and, in September 2020, agendaize discussion of 2021 survey questions.

9. STATE LEGISLATION AND BUDGET UPDATE

- Governor Gavin Newsom planned an initiative to address prescription drug affordability by using state purchasing power for generic drugs. The impact of the proposal on ADAP resources was not yet known.
- Governor Newsom's January 2020 proposed budget was \$222 billion with the following highlights:
 - ↳ No funding for HIV, STD, or Hepatitis C. (Advocates will question this omission.)
 - ↳ \$1.4 billion overall to various homeless initiatives.
 - ↳ \$750 million for the California Access Housing and Services Fund established by Executive Order which requires state agencies to act by 1/31/2020 to make state properties and facilities available to increase housing and shelter options.
 - ↳ \$187 million towards the Census, e.g., outreach media campaigns serving hard to reach communities.
- The minimum wage for In-Home Supportive Services will increase to \$13 in January 2020 and to \$14 in January 2021.
- The Office of Healthcare Affordability will be established in Spring 2020 to address cost increases. Meanwhile, work continues on Medi-Cal Healthier California for All (formerly Cal AIM) to reform the Medi-Cal system overall.
- The End The Epidemics (ETE) Coalition ask was expected to be \$62 million, \$20 million each for HIV, STDs, and Hepatitis C. Ms. Barrit said, as has been noted before, ongoing funding was important as it is hard to plan services with one-time funds.
- a. **Legislative Docket**
 - Ms. Tolentino noted the 2019 Policy Priorities in the packet to initiate review for the 2020 update to inform the Docket.
 - Ms. Nelson noted this was the second year of the 2019-2020 legislative session. Materials in the packet reviewed Board of Supervisors (Board) priorities, ETE asks, and Governor Newsom's proposed homeless funding.
 - Upcoming legislative deadlines were: 1/17/2020, Policy Committees hear and report fiscal bills introduced in 2019 to their Fiscal Committees; 1/24/2020, any committee hears and reports bills introduced in 2019; 1/24/2020, legislators provide legislative language to office for drafting bills introduced in 2020; 1/31/2020, pass bills introduced in 2019; 2/21/2020, introduce bills in the Legislature. Consequently, a final Docket should be available for the March meeting.
 - A few two-year bills were also expected, e.g., to expand Medi-Cal to all California residents 65 or older; and to permit billing both a primary and mental health visit that occur on the same day.
 - Senator Scott Wiener planned a new iteration of SB 50 to facilitate development of housing density adjacent to existing transportation infrastructure. AIDS Healthcare Foundation was also working on a rental affordability ballot measure.
 - ➡ Updates to the 2019 Policy Priorities were as follows:
 - ↳ Change bullets to numbers.
 - ↳ Bullet 1, Sub-Bullet 1: Change "Preserve..." to "Preserve or increase..."
 - ↳ Bullet 3: Change "Maintain and preserve..." to "Preserve or increase..."
 - ↳ Bullet 4: Delete plan names after "consistent" and revise to "...consistent with efforts to end the HIV epidemic."
 - ↳ Bullet 6: Revise to, "Enhance accountability for deliverables from a heightened and coordinated federal, state, and local response, particularly in the context of local planning and responsiveness to efforts to end the HIV epidemic."
 - ↳ Bullet 7: Add Oxford coma after "research."

- ↪ Bullet 8: Revise "reduce stigma" to "reduce HIV-related stigma;" add "food insecurity" to list of SDH; and revise "substance abuse" to "substance use disorder."
- ↪ Bullet 9: Revise "Preserve and/or support..." to "Preserve and/or improve...;" and delete coma after "contracting."
- ↪ *NEW* Bullet 10: "Support policies to prevent homelessness among people living with or at risk of HIV/AIDS."
- ↪ *PRIOR* Bullet 10/*NEW* Bullet 11: Delete comas.
- ↪ *PRIOR* Bullet 11/*NEW* Bullet 12: Revise "...expand access to and reduce the cost..." to "...expand access to, reduce barriers, and reduce the cost... ."
- ↪ *NEW* Bullet 14: "Support policies that prioritize mental health services for PLWH."
- ➡ Staff will provide the PowerPoint presented by Ashlee Oh at the 7/11/2019 Commission Meeting on homelessness, in particular the slides pertinent to where persons experiencing homelessness lived prior to becoming homeless.
- ➡ Staff will update the Policy Priorities for review and approval at the 2/3/2020 meeting and send it out with the agenda.
- ➡ Staff will populate the Legislative Docket as bills become available.

10. FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE

- The annual Federal AIDS Project Partnership (FAPP) Appropriations for Federal HIV/AIDS Programs summary was in the packet for review. It was announced that President Trump will forward his proposed budget to Congress on 2/10/2020.
- The last Continuing Resolution (CR) extension had ended 12/21/2019. Congress passed a new CR 12/22/2019 which will run through 5/22/2020. This does offer discretionary, but not mandatory, funding for health centers which continue advocacy.
- On 1/10/2020, the 4th Circuit United States (US) Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling that halted the federal administration's efforts to discharge members of the US Air Force living with HIV. Lambda Legal worked on the case.
- Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA) members sent a letter to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) requesting no implementation of regulations that might harm LGBTQ access to care due to conscience issues.
- Regarding expansion of the public charge rule, the New York appeals court denied a request to lift the injunction leaving five court cases playing out with a March 2020 deadline. A separate, merits of the case, piece was expected to take ten months to a year. The New York appeals court was deciding whether expansion can occur while the longer case plays out.
- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released its 2019 continuum of care data. The two-page summary for California shows: total homeless persons, 151,278; unsheltered, 108,000; in emergency housing, 10,000; in transitional housing, 12,000; male, 98,000; female, 50,000; transgender, 1,700; nonconforming, 648; white, 82,000; 44,000, Black; PLWH, 2,622. PLWH data seemed low as past estimates were that 11% of PLWH were unstably housed or homeless.
- Ms. Barrit noted the Commission continues to track federal issues generating concerned calls such as a change in the Social Security definition of disability and a federal ruling restricting states' ability to waive the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirement. Some states have already informed recipients that they no longer qualify for SNAP.

VI. NEXT STEPS

11. **TASK/ASSIGNMENTS RECAP:** There was no additional discussion.
12. **AGENDA DEVELOPMENT FOR NEXT MEETING:** There was no additional discussion.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mr. Gamboa announced the 1/11/2020 opening of the new LGBT Center South Los Angeles site in Leimert Park. The initial goal was to expand HIV treatment and care to the area but, with help, services have been augmented to include a women's clinic, programs for youth and seniors, a computer lab, community outreach, and legal services.
- Mr. Rogel recently received a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Let's Stop HIV Together partnership to assist local people with community organization. He is available to assist organizations with information and resources.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

14. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 2:46 pm.