



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**

August 5, 2019



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	Jason Brown	Cheryl Barrit, MPIA
Katja Nelson, MPP, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Eduardo Martinez (<i>Alt.</i>)	Robert Gamboa	Julie Tolentino, MPH
Kyle Baker	Nestor Rogel	Peter Soto	
Alasdair Burton (<i>Alt.</i>)		Jasmine Yancy	
Jerry D. Gates, PhD			DPH/DHSP STAFF
Lee Kochems, MA			None additional
Martin Sattah, MD			
Ricky Rosales			
Craig Scott, MA			

CONTENTS OF COMMITTEE PACKET

- 1) **Agenda:** Public Policy Committee Agenda, 8/5/2019
- 2) **Minutes:** Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, 7/1/2019
- 3) **Table:** 2019 Work Plan - Public Policy, *Updated 7/1/2019*
- 4) **Table:** 2019-2020 Legislative Docket, *Updated 7/30/2019*
- 5) **Policy Update:** Governor Newsom Signs Historic Bill to Advance Sex Worker's Health, Rights, and Safety, 7/30/2019
- 6) **Policy Update:** TransLatin@ Coalition Passes Two Bills Through Assembly Public Safety Committee in California, 2019
- 7) **Notice:** Pursuit of County-Advocacy Position to Co-sponsor National Association of Counties Resolution, 7/11/2019
- 8) **Fact Sheet:** The PrEP Access and Coverage Act, 2019
- 9) **Fact Sheet:** Accessing Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Related Medical Services through Telemedicine for Insured Clients Enrolled in the PrEP Assistance Program, 2019
- 10) **Statement:** HIV Status Has No Place in Border Patrol Policy, *Date of Hearing 7/29/2019*
- 11) **Fact Sheet:** Proposed Revisions to Section 1557 of the ACA, 2019
- 12) **Letter:** Single-Purchaser System for Prescription Drugs: AIDS Drug Assistance Program, 5/31/2019

CALL TO ORDER-INTRODUCTIONS-CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS: A.Fox called the meeting to order at 1:07pm.

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 7/1/2019 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:

Member of the public asked a question regarding the Federal Conscience Rule. Co-Chair Fox stated he would respond during the Federal Policy Update section on the agenda.

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 was a request to agendize data collection and sharing in light of Medi-Cal data sharing barriers as discussed at the July *Planning, Priorities, and Allocation Committee* meeting on 7/23/19.

IV. REPORTS

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT

- C.Barrit noted Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Director Robert Redfield, MD, visited Los Angeles County (LAC) 7/18/2019, one of several visits nationwide supporting the Federal Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America (National Plan). Key members of the Commission attended, the Commission Co-Chairs, and Public Policy Committee Co-Chairs as well as Department of Public Health (DPH) leadership, and key staff from the Division of HIV & STD Programs (DHSP).
 - DHSP, in concert with C. Barrit, strongly advocated for the broadest possible community representation for the visit, but they did not make the final decisions. The day consisted of breakfast solely for DPH and CDC leadership, lunch that included Commission leaders, and an afternoon panel at APLA Health on HIV-related topics including methamphetamine and opioid use, syphilis, and PrEP uptake.
 - Commission leadership emphasized the uniqueness of LAC due to the geographic scale and diversity. Dr. Redfield requested LA County be “disruptively innovative” once the National Plan moves forward. There has been no information to date on how funds will be distributed.
 - K.Nelson attended the lunch and afternoon portions of the day, and noted that the National Plan could result in increased funding to federally qualified health centers for prevention and PrEP uptake.
 - C.Barrit requested a follow up meeting with DPH leadership to debrief and discuss next steps. The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and CDC will visit LAC in September 2019, offering another opportunity to express perspectives.
- a. **Committee Work Plan 2019:** There was no additional discussion.

6. CO-CHAIR REPORT

a. September Meeting on Labor Day 9/2/19

- Co-Chairs discussed cancelling the September Public Policy meeting given it falls on the Labor Day Holiday. Committee agreed.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. COUNTY POLICY ISSUES

- a. **Housing Policy:** K.Nelson asked the Committee if there were any questions or follow up discussion from the housing presentations at the 7/11/19 Commission meeting. C.Barrit stated she has followed up with a data request for the people living with HIV (PLWH) broken down by demographics.
- K.Nelson reported on the End the Epidemics Townhall event on Friday 8/2/19 which was intended to maintain momentum for the community-driven effort to inform development of a statewide strategy to end the HIV, HCV, and STD epidemics in California. California Assemblymember Mike Gipson was the keynote speaker, Craig Pulsipher and colleagues led an overview of the initiative, and a panel was convened in the afternoon. K.Nelson mentioned the group partnered with We

can Stop STDs LA for the event which resulted in new faces and a broader crowd than the usual HIV network in LAC. The next townhall will be in Orange County.

- APLA Health reached out to LA Care regarding the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) which asked questions to patients that resulted in barriers to accessing PrEP. LA Care agreed to remove the questions from the assessment.
- County is opposing the changes to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) which would limit food assistance to currently eligible individuals and families.
- The Long Beach HIV Planning Group has been working with the City of Long Beach in advancing HIV prevention and treatment efforts. It is estimated that one-time, two year funding of \$250,000 will be allocated towards HIV in the Mayor's budget. The Planning Group discussed utilizing the funding for two positions at the health department for HIV outreach, testing and linkage to care. Susan Alvarado, the HIV Prevention Coordinator, will provide an update at an upcoming Commission meeting.

8. STATE LEGISLATION AND BUDGET

- Governor Gavin Newsom signed the Budget about six hours before the deadline with a small number of line item vetoes, none Commission-tracked health and human services items. The Budget started 7/1/2019.
 - K.Nelson called attention to the Fact Sheet in the packet from California Department of Public Health on the PrEP telemedicine option. The PrEP Assistance Program contracts with PlushCare to provide telemedicine services to clients.
 - A.Fox called attention to the Letter in the packet regarding Governor Newsom's call for a single bulk purchasing system for prescription drugs. The California HIV Alliance wrote a letter to the Office of Governor Newsom requesting to leave HIV medication and the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) out of the single purchaser system due to concern that pricing will increase and the rebate structure, which is imperative to HIV programming, will be lost. In addition, if California is included in the bulk purchasing system, ADAPs nationwide will suffer given the State is a leader in negotiations and operates the largest ADAP in the Country. The bulk purchasing system is slated to go into effect in 2021.
- a. **Legislative Docket**
- Regarding SB 233, Immunity from Arrest, it was signed into law by the Governor and enrolled on 7/19/19. This law will give sex workers immunity from arrest for sex work-related and minor drug offenses when they come forward as a witness or victim of certain violent crimes. It also prohibits condoms from being used as evidence to arrest or prosecute someone for sex work-related offenses.
 - Regarding SB 159, HIV pre-exposure and post-exposure prophylaxis, it is currently in Assembly Appropriations and is moving through Congress. LAC also supports it.

9. FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE

- The Co-Chairs called attention to the statement in the packet regarding reports that border patrol is using HIV status as justification for separating them from their children at the border. US Congressman Jamie Raskin wrote a letter to the Department of Health Services (DHS) seeking immediate explanation and official renunciation of DHS policy on family separation based on communicable diseases.
- K.Nelson called attention to the fact sheet regarding proposed revisions to Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) which removes protections for LGBTQ people. Public comment is due next Tuesday 8/13/19. Templates and sample language are available online.
- C.Scott requested an update on the HHS Federal Conscience Rule. A.Fox mentioned the "Denial of Care" rule that allows providers to deny care due to religious or moral objection is currently in court with multiple lawsuits filed by organizations with various foci, e.g., HIV, transgender rights, reproductive rights. A temporary injunction has been requested to prevent the law from going into effect while the cases are still in court.
- US Senator Kamala Harris introduced The PrEP Access and Coverage Act detailed in the packet. It would ensure all expenses are covered and increase awareness. A companion bill was recently introduced in the House.

VI. NEXT STEPS

10. TASK/ASSIGNMENTS RECAP:

- ➡ Commission staff will send cancellation notice for September 2, 2019 meeting.

11. AGENDA DEVELOPMENT FOR NEXT MEETING:

- Commission staff will agendize data sharing
- Commission staff will agendize United States Conference on AIDS (USCA) updates

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- K.Baker is resigning from DHSP on 8/16/19.
- The Unique Women's Coalition, the first Black Trans led service organization, is hosting a grand opening at their new office on Charles Drew Campus on 8/16/19 at 2pm.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- 14. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:20pm.