



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
COMMISSION ON HIV



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**PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

September 10, 2018



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>	Alasdair Burton	None	Cheryl Barrit, MPIA
Terry Goddard, MA, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Eric Paul Leue		Jane Nachazel
Kyle Baker	Jerry D. Gates, PhD	<b>DHSP STAFF</b>	Julie Tolentino, MPH
Andrew Lopez ( <i>Alt.</i> )	Eduardo Martinez ( <i>Alt.</i> )	None	
Lee Kochems, MA	Martin Sattah, MD		
Katja Nelson	Greg Wilson		
Ricky Rosales			

**CONTENTS OF COMMITTEE PACKET**

- 1) **Agenda:** Public Policy Committee Agenda, 9/10/2018
- 2) **Minutes:** Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, 8/6/2018
- 3) **Summary:** Major California Legislation 2017-2018 of Interest to L.A. County Department of Mental Health, 2018
- 4) **Memorandum:** Motion: Approve a resolution recommending expanding resources and access for sexually transmitted disease (STD) prevention, testing, and treatment and forward the recommendation to the Board of Supervisors, 9/6/2018
- 5) **Press Release:** New CDC analysis shows steep and sustained increases in STDs in recent years, 8/28/2018
- 6) **Letter:** Submission of Amendment to the Fair Pricing for Dialysis Act (No. 17-0014), 9/8/2017
- 7) **Measure:** Fair Pricing for Dialysis Act, 2017
- 8) **Analysis:** Proposition 8 Authorizes State Regulation of Kidney Dialysis Clinics, Limits Charges for Patient Care, Initiative Statute, 7/18/2018
- 9) **Analysis:** Read for Yourself, Proposition 8, Dangerous Dialysis Proposition, 2018
- 10) **Table:** Los Angeles County Commission on HIV, 2018-2019 Legislative Docket, Revised 9/4/2018

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mr. Fox called the meeting to order at 1:05 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 8/6/2018 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 COMMENT

4. **NON-AGENDIZED OR FOLLOW-UP:** There were no comments.

## IV. REPORTS

### 5. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT:**

- Ms. Barrit, Ms. Tolentino, and Ms. Nelson attended the 8/20/2018 annual Department of Public Health's (DPH's) community engagement event on community health and assessment policy priorities. STDs is also a priority and key focus area for the Center for Health Equity which held its second community meeting the prior week in Van Nuys. Commission staff try to ensure that the voice of the Commission is reflected at as many of these community conversations as possible.
- DPH identified seven criteria to help prioritize its public policy work: level of interest from community partners, health equity, need for Los Angeles County (LAC) leadership, impact, urgency, feasibility, and political viability.
- ➡ Staff will provide a summary of the DPH criteria as an additional tool when the Public Policy Priorities are next updated.
- ➡ Ms. Barrit has asked Joshua Bobrowsky, Policy Director, to provide more information on the DPH priorities, e.g., weighting.

### 6. **CO-CHAIR REPORT:**

- Mr. Goddard, Jason Brown, and Bridget Gordon attended the 9/5/2018 LAC Department of Mental Health (DMH) Systems Leadership Team Meeting. The California Mental Health Services Act (Millionaire's Tax) required counties to have a Community Advisory Board (CAB) to inform reflectiveness of investments. "Systems" in LAC's CAB title refers to its charge to consider other resources in order to best leverage all the resources to address mental health issues in LAC.
- DMH provided a summary of pertinent legislation which was in the packet. Mr. Goddard highlighted two bills.
- SB 1045: Conservatorship - Serious Mental Illness and Substance Use Disorders (SUD) would make it easier to appoint a conservator if a person is incapable of caring for their own health and well-being due to a serious mental health illness and SUD. LAC was a co-sponsor and the Commission had supported it previously. Mr. Goddard noted many challenges with homeless clients who have serious mental health illness and hoped, if signed by Governor Brown, this tool would help.
- SB 10: Pretrial Release or Detention; Pretrial Services eliminates cash bail. Some conflicts did arise as a result of modifications to the original bill. The consensus considers the bill a plus for social justice, but concerns remain about monitoring tools used to assess people and how those will be used. The Governor has signed the bill.
- DMH is in the midst of changing its system design which will result in the current Service Planning Area (SPA)-based groups losing their authority. Significant discussion was on what would happen to those centers of power.
- Mr. Fox addressed Planning, Priorities and Allocations (PP&A) Committee discussion on the excessive time needed to complete the standard LAC procurement process for service categories that are allocated new or expanded funding. Delays can result in unexpended funds at the end of the Ryan White grant year that are at risk of being lost. PP&A has requested Commission advocacy for an expedited procurement process to avert jeopardizing funds.
- Ms. Barrit added the Operations Committee also highlighted informing the Board of Supervisors (BOS) about this issue as part of its Assessment of the Administrative Mechanism (AAM) recommendations because it impacts the ability to plan appropriately and implement services. The Consumer Caucus plans a separate letter to the BOS on consumer impact.
- Mr. Goddard considered there may be an opportunity to approach the issue differently. He suggested the Standards and Best Practices (SBP) Committee review service categories allocated new or expanded funding with an eye toward how they might be inserted into existing contracts. For example, rental assistance is a flexible tool. It could be used in a variety of situations such as giving Medical Care Coordination (MCC) teams the ability to provide financial assistance to their clients.
- ➡ Commission leadership will draft a BOS letter on administrative changes to facilitate procurement with Public Policy input.
- ➡ Refer to SBP: Explore how to integrate new services into existing ones to enable piggybacking funding on existing contracts.

## V. DISCUSSION ITEMS



**7. STD RESOLUTION FOLLOW UP:**

- Mr. Fox reported the resolution passed at the 8/9/2018 Commission meeting with only one no and one abstention. The Public Policy Committee process and reasoning behind the resolution were explained. A few people did raise questions, in particular concerning how the \$30 million request was determined. There were suggestions to request both less and more.
- Ms. Barrit has been fine-tuning language with Mr. Baker. The resolution has gone through multiple review layers and should be ready for inclusion in the Commission packet at the September or October meeting. The cover letter was in the packet.
- Mr. Fox noted the Commission's last resolution process pertained to PrEP. A good symbiotic relationship existed between internal LAC activity and a significantly impacted community that confirmed PrEP importance. He suggested considering if that model will work for STDs. This resolution also calls for much more funding in a different political environment.
- A work group can coordinate next steps, e.g., identifying those interested in talking with Health Deputies. Mr. Baker offered DHSP help as needed. He noted PrEP Health Deputy meeting teams included those with expertise in advocacy and the topic. Commission Supervisorial Representatives should also meet individually with their Board Offices. Mr. Kochems will coordinate with the Consumer Caucus to ensure the consumer voice is represented on the teams.
- Mr. Fox said volunteers should be aware Board Offices are friendly. Mr. Kochems added the more experienced people on teams should help keep the focus on the STD Resolution. Preparatory work should ensure a cohesive message.
- Attendees agreed STD background information was needed to inform advocacy message development. A presentation by Mr. Pérez to the full Commission was preferred both to engage members in the process and educate them on the issue. Information may be broken out by Service Planning Area (SPA) and/or Health District (HD).
- Mr. Fox added that, on a parallel track, representatives of different community organizations have met twice with DPH leadership including Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director; Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, MD, MPH, Interim Health Officer; and Mario Pérez, MPH, Director, DHSP. STDs have been one of the two or three key meeting topics so LAC is aware of the issue.
- He also asked Heidi Bauer, MD, MPH, MS, Chief, STD Control Branch, California Department of Public Health (CDPH) about potentially helpful statewide data. CDPH is now conducting research with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to identify the number of tests needed and their cost to test all gay and bisexual men in California.
- Mr. Baker reminded the body of this year's state \$10 million request that was reduced to \$2 million in one-time funds with \$200,000 of that for the STD Control Branch. At the federal level, there was a \$5 million cut two budget sessions ago in the CDC's STD budget line item. Advocates fought for and recently won that back, but LAC will only get back some \$120,000. A 9/25/2018 National Coalition of STD Directors (NCSDD) press release reported the federal STD response has lost 40% of its buying power adjusted for inflation over time. STD rate increases are inevitable with the same or decreasing funds.
- ➡ Staff will email the STD Resolution to the Public Policy Committee for review and do a Doodle poll for advocacy teams.
- ➡ STD Resolution Work Group members are: Mr. Fox, Ms. Granados, Mr. Lopez, Ms. Nelson, Mr. Rosales. It will coordinate teams for each Health Deputy meeting including the Supervisorial Representative and a consumer, ideally from the District.
- ➡ Staff will work with Mr. Kochems to help identify Consumer Caucus members for the BOS meetings.
- ➡ Ms. Barrit, Mr. Baker, and Mr. Pérez will confer by phone to develop Mr. Pérez's presentation for the Commission on current STD program background information with delineation of DHSP-funded services compared to other public and private health plans, programs impact, biggest gaps, and goals for the future including roles for public and private partners.
- ➡ DHSP has generated several reports on STDs at the request of the BOS that can inform the discussion and remind the BOS of its history. The latest, delivered 9/7/2018, was a 90-day report back on potential state and federal resources requested by Supervisors Sheila Kuehl and Hilda Solis. Community organizations have also sought state and federal resources.
- ➡ After meetings with individual Board Offices, present at the Wednesday Health Deputies Health Cluster meeting.

**8. FEDERAL POLICY UPDATES:**

**a. Funding:**

- Mr. Fox said the Senate and House each passed versions of the Labor, Health and Human Services (HHS) bill which includes, e.g., Ryan White and CDC funding. The Senate made a bipartisan decision to pass clean appropriation bills with no poison pills and attached defense spending. An omnibus bill can be avoided by passing several combined bills.
- The House bill does have significant amendments, but the House may simply take up and pass the Senate bill. As of the last week, the Senate and House had determined conferees to reconcile the combined bill.
- Funding for Ryan White and other areas of Commission interest was flat except for a small opioid response increase.

**b. Safe Consumption Sites:**

- AB 186 was introduced last year, but lost in the Senate by two votes. Advocacy, especially by the Drug Policy Alliance, helped win the Senate by 21 votes. It would authorize the City and County of San Francisco to approve sites for adults.



- Federal Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein wrote an op-ed piece in an August edition of the *New York Times* stating that the Department of Justice would use "swift and aggressive action" against such sites.
- Governor Brown has leaned toward signing things not in line with federal policy, e.g., clean energy, so Mr. Rosenstein's op-ed against such sites may have the opposite effect, but at this point it is unknown. Mr. Rosales reported the Los Angeles City Council was not ready to support the measure. Mr. Fox noted the Los Angeles delegation was predominantly, but not entirely, in favor of the bill. Governor Brown has until September 30th to sign or veto bills.

#### 9. STATE LEGISLATION AND BUDGET:

- Mr. Fox reported the budget has been signed and the next budget cycle will start soon. The California HIV Alliance will hold its annual in-person meeting this October in Los Angeles. The meeting lays ground work for its budget priorities and asks.
  - He expected an increase in ask amounts as well as asks that also address STDs and Hepatitis C.
- a. **Legislative Docket:**
- All bills passed out of the Legislature have gone forward to Governor Brown by now. The Docket may indicate that movement with "engrossing and enrolling" or "enrolled." He has signed a few of the some 900 bills including AB 1791 which includes PrEP/PEP as a topic on the list of Medical Board of California continuing education credits.
  - There is no movement now on pertinent federal legislation. Congress may propose legislation, even if unlikely to pass, as a parting gift to supporters in a lame duck session were the Senate or House to change hands in midterm elections.
  - Mr. Baker reported the BOS asked for DHSP's input on legislation around the first week of August. Language regarding the state has been massaged over the years and federal options were limited so he has made no adjustments, but wanted to ensure the Commission had an opportunity to weigh in. Ms. Barrit reported the BOS had not yet asked for Commission input. It was likely Chief Executive Office intergovernmental changes were the cause of that delay.

#### 10. COUNTY POLICY ISSUES:

- a. **Housing Policy Advocacy:**
- Mr. Goddard reported the Housing Task Force met and agreed to change its focus from revising the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assessment Tool (VI-SPDAT), which seems futile, to advocating for a separate enrollment process for PLWH like that used for victims of Domestic Violence. Ms. Nelson agreed to develop talking points.
  - Rebecca Ronquillo, HOPWA, could not attend the meeting, but will join Ms. Nelson, Ms. Barrit, and Mr. Goddard after this meeting to review the situation. A key advocacy challenge is the lack of data supporting a separate system.
  - Ms. Nelson attended a Housing Summit in Washington DC where it was generally agreed that revising the VI-SPDAT would be difficult. Many people here are continuing to push how to insert PLWH concerns into Measure H funding.
  - Overall, she encouraged people to attend pertinent meetings whether it is Measure H Oversight, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), or even various city council meetings to be more present. It is also valuable to speak with the Homeless Deputies to educate them on the link between health and housing specific to HIV. Mr. Goddard would like the National AIDS Housing Coalition to present on Social Determinants of Health to LAHSA.
- ➡ Update Public Policy at next meeting on results of that afternoon's Housing Task Force call.
- b. **LA County HIV/AIDS Strategy Policy Workgroup:** There was no discussion.

#### VI. NEXT STEPS

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

#### VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no announcements.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

14. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 2:25 pm.