



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**

December 2, 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 (cont.)	PUBLIC	COMM STAFF/ CONSULTANTS
Aaron Fox, MPM, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Lee Kochems, MA	Robert Gamboa	Jane Nachazel
Katja Nelson, MPP, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Nestor Rogel (Alt.)	Peter Soto	Julie Tolentino, MPH
Alasdair Burton (Alt. for Coffey)	Ricky Rosales		
	Eduardo Martinez (Alt.)	DPH/DHSP STAFF	
MEMBERS ABSENT	Martin Sattah, MD	None	
Pamela Coffey (Full to Burton)	Craig Scott, MA (Alt.)		
Jerry D. Gates, PhD			

CONTENTS OF COMMITTEE PACKET

- 1) **Agenda:** Public Policy Committee Agenda, 12/2/2019
- 2) **Minutes:** Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, 10/7/2019
- 3) **Minutes:** Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, 11/4/2019
- 4) **Letter:** Proposed Measure H Funding Recommendations for FY 2020-21, 11/26/2019
- 5) **Article:** Board of Supervisors Approves Permanent Tenant Protections for Unincorporated Los Angeles County, 11/26/2019
- 6) **Email:** Washington, DC Update - Pursuit of County Advocacy Position on Measures Related to Homelessness, Public Housing, and the Armenian Genocide, 11/6/2019
- 7) **Hearing Agenda:** Hearing Board of Supervisors, Agenda, 11/26/2019

CALL TO ORDER-INTRODUCTIONS-CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS: Mr. Fox called the meeting to order at 1:15 pm.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION #1: Approve the Agenda Order (*Postponed*).

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION #2: Approve the 10/7/2019 and 11/4/2019 Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, as presented (*Postponed*).

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS COMMISSION ON ITEMS OF INTEREST WITHIN COMMISSION JURISDICTION:

- Mr. Gamboa noted 12/1/2019 was World AIDS Day with multiple events countywide and more ongoing.

- The City of West Hollywood Memorial Walk will be 12/2/2019 starting at 5:30 in Matthew Shepard Square and proceeding to West Hollywood Park. A Candlelight Vigil, hosted by Alliance for Housing and Healing, will follow and Paul Starke Warrior Awards for HIV advocacy will be presented in the City Council Chambers. Mr. Gamboa will receive a Paul Starke Award.

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:

- Mr. Burton asked to address the lack of quorum as this is the second meeting in a row that has not achieved quorum.
- ➡ Ms. Tolentino will check the Commission calendar and Committee members to see if the January meeting might be rescheduled to 1/13/2020. Committee members will be asked to RSVP. Quorum is required to elect Co-Chairs.

IV. REPORTS

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT: Ms. Tolentino said Committee assignments are reviewed at the start of the year to respond to Commissioner preferences and Committee needs. Mr. Fox added he spoke with some Commissioners at the Annual Meeting who expressed interest in Public Policy and would benefit the Committee with more diverse voices at the table.

6. CO-CHAIR REPORT

- Regarding a federal response to World AIDS Day, President Donald Trump released a proclamation expressing support for those living with HIV and remembrance of those who have lost their lives to it. The proclamation notes this administration's Ending the HIV Epidemic (EtHE) plan and the ongoing global President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), but did not address highly impacted populations such as the LGBT community or people of color. HIV.gov also did an email blast.
- The body agreed that the Annual Meeting went especially well. It also exceeded anticipated attendance with 178 people.
- Mr. Fox thought panelists were mostly good, but found the federal Prevention through Active Community Engagement (PACE) Program representatives confusing. He was glad to hear and be able to question local leaders. He and Ms. Nelson agreed that at least annual updates on the information is expected to be incorporated into future meetings. Suggestions for next year's panelists included Anthony Fauci, MD, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease (NIAID); and Valerie Gallo, MPH, Deputy Regional Administrator, Region 9, Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).
- Mr. Gamboa liked the engagement piece at the end of the meeting, but questioned its usefulness when people were tired after a long day. Mr. Fox acknowledged the fatigue, however, engagement after the presentations meant everyone had the same basic information. Ms. Nelson added that the Commission also needed to do due diligence in gathering input for the end of December 2019 report to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- ➡ Suggested to number tables and assign Annual Meeting attendees randomly on arrival; and seat a Commissioner per table.
- a. **Committee Co-Chair Nominations and Election:** Postponed because quorum was not achieved.
MOTION #3: Elect Co-Chairs, 2020 term, for the Public Policy Committee, as nominated (**Postponed**).

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

- Mr. Gamboa asked how issues are integrated into policy development. Ms. Nelson replied that is done primarily through identifying and supporting bills consistent with recommendations and possibly making suggestions to revise a bill.
- The Committee has not been involved in significantly drafting a bill for quite some time. If the Commission wanted to introduce legislation, Public Policy would forward draft legislation for approval to the Executive Committee. It would then need to be approved at the full Commission and forwarded as a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors (Board). The Public Policy Committee has also provided input in the past to bills co-sponsored by community organizations.
- ➡ Follow-up on recommendations pertinent to Public Policy response will continue at the January meeting.

8. COUNTY POLICY UPDATE

a. Housing:

- Ms. Nelson reported Measure H Policy Summits were completed the prior week. 12/2/2019 at midnight will be the close of public comment. Commission written recommendations were in the packet. She and Jason Brown also made public comments at the closing Policy Summit on prioritizing PLWH.

- The California State Assembly Select Committee on Los Angeles County (LAC) Homelessness will hold an informational hearing on homelessness at 10:00 am on 12/3/2019 at the Weingart Foundation. The Committee Chair is Miguel Santiago, Assemblymember, District 53. It is at the same time as the Standards and Best Practices Committee, but Ms. Nelson will attempt to attend to submit a public comment.
- Information on the Board's new rent stabilization measure for unincorporated areas of LAC was also in the packet. It notes coordination of LAC measures with state legislation, e.g., SB 329 which the Commission supported. State Senator Holly Mitchell, District 30, sponsored SB 329 which would ban discrimination against renting to those with Section 8.
- Ms. Nelson will follow-up on the new LAC Committee to coordinate Measures W, H, A, and M, the WHAM Committee.
- Ms. Nelson will request the Executive Committee follow-up on incorporation of suggestions such as on PrEP into the Alliance for Health Integration (AHI) plan. Barbara Ferrer, PhD, MPH, MEd, Director, LAC, Department of Public Health (DPH) said that the AHI proposal is a living document so should reflect the input.

9. STATE LEGISLATION AND BUDGET UPDATE

- Mr. Fox reported California advocates for HIV, STDs, harm reduction, sexual health, and related issues started meeting a couple of months ago on the next budget ask. The proposal will be for one comprehensive ask plus a few discreet asks from specific groups. Considering the breadth of the ask, he anticipated it will be over \$60 million. The four primary organizations are: California HIV Alliance, CalHep, Harm Reduction Coalition, and Essential Access Health.
- An example of a probable discreet ask will likely be to increase coverage for ADAP up to 600% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to close the gap with the level at which people can get subsidies for Covered California. The Ryan White Program (RWP) typically uses the ADAP FPL level as an indicator for setting the level overall so that could impact the entire system.
- Ms. Nelson added the Ending The Epidemics (ETE) Coalition will also be reinvigorating its work for the next year.

a. Legislative Docket

- Mr. Fox said the Legislature was not in session and Governor Gavin Newsom was going to Iowa so there is no Docket as yet. The Legislature will come back briefly in December, but will not start introducing bills until after 1/1/2020.
- A significant amount of healthcare legislation was anticipated including items not passed last year. Governor Newsom has committed to expanding Medicaid to include all those 65+, regardless of immigration status, if financially eligible. Others are likely to continue to advocate for expanding Medicaid to all people who are financially eligible.
- There will also likely be legislation to allow current HIV test counselors to do rapid syphilis testing. Currently, HIV test counselors cannot technically do both and the rapid syphilis testing training is prohibitive.

10. FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE

- A separate item in the packet identified three bills supported by LAC: HR 4302, authorizes public housing agencies to share certain data regarding the homeless to facilitate linkages; HR 2763, blocks proposed rule prohibiting mixed-status families from subsidized housing; and, HRes 296, affirming United States record on the Armenian Genocide.
- Mr. Fox reported there have been two decisions on the proposed healthcare services denial of care rule based on free exercise of religion. The LGBT Center is a plaintiff in the California suit. While the administration will appeal, the rule has been stayed for the present. He suggested all read the California decision which strongly supports unlimited access.
- Currently, the nation's budget is running under a Continuing Resolution (CR). There had been some agreement on how much money was going to be spent assuming appropriations bills would be passed, not another CR. However, with the discord on impeachment, it is highly unlikely Congress will be able to pass eight appropriation bills so another CR was likely.
- Ms. Nelson said some people have submitted comments on the proposed Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Notice to promptly end the earned income disregard. Comments overall noted that the earned income disregard would sunset in one or two years and asked that it be allowed to expire at that time.
- Mr. Fox noted considerable discussion of drug pricing through the elections and this Congress. President Trump had indicated he was willing to sign a House bill, but now says the Pelosi bill is horrible, and the current Senate bill is so watered down as to have little impact. The environment no longer seems fruitful for deals on drug pricing, Medicare, et cetera.

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:** There were no announcements.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

14. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 1:59 pm.