



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**

March 4, 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 PRESENT (cont.)	PUBLIC	COMM STAFF/ CONSULTANTS
Aaron Fox, MPM, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Eduardo Martinez (<i>Alt.</i>)	Jason Brown	Cheryl Barrit, MPIA
Katja Nelson, MPP, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Ricky Rosales	Craig Pulsipher	Jane Nachazel
Kyle Baker		Peter Soto	Julie Tolentino, MPH
Alasdair Burton (<i>Alt.</i>)	MEMBERS ABSENT		
Terry Goddard, MA	Jerry D. Gates, PhD		DPH/DHSP STAFF
Lee Kochems, MA	Martin Sattah, MD		None additional
Eric Paul Leue	Greg Wilson		

CONTENTS OF COMMITTEE PACKET

- 1) **Agenda:** Public Policy Committee Agenda, 3/4/2019
- 2) **Minutes:** Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, 2/4/2019
- 3) **Table:** 2019 Work Plan Template, Public Policy Committee (PPC), 2/28/2019
- 4) **Table:** Los Angeles County Commission on HIV (COH), Health Equity Assessment Worksheet, 1/31/2019
- 5) **Priorities:** 2019 Draft Policy Priorities, 3/4/2019
- 6) **Letter:** Appropriate at least \$406 million for HOPWA in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, 3/4/2019
- 7) **Request For Information (RFI):** Improving Efficiency, Effectiveness, Coordination, and Accountability of HIV and Viral Hepatitis Prevention, Care, and Treatment Programs, 2/8/2019
- 8) **Memorandum:** Sacramento - Pursuit of County-Advocacy Position on Package of State Budget Proposals to Increase Funding for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) Prevention Efforts, 2/8/2019
- 9) **Article:** Newsom says California must address soaring health care costs, 2/12/2019
- 10) **Article:** STD Rates Continue to Rise: California Must Invest in Prevention
- 11) **Article:** Provide Sufficient Funding for Hepatitis C - \$20 Million Ongoing
- 12) **Article:** Restore HIV Prevention Funding - \$20 Million Ongoing
- 13) **Article:** Expanding Medi-Cal to all undocumented adults would cost \$2B-plus, fiscal analysis says, 2/14/2019
- 14) **Table:** 2019-2020 Legislative Docket, 2/28/2019
- 15) **Overview:** Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America, 2/28/2019
- 16) **Press Release:** CDC data confirm: Progress in HIV prevention has stalled - Need for immediate action - Ending the Epidemic: A Plan for America, 2/27/2019
- 17) **Overview:** Title X Family Planning Program, Improving public health + saving taxpayer dollars
- 18) **Act:** Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act of 2017, 1/15/2019

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Fox called the meeting to order at 1:09 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 2/4/2019 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:

- Ms. Nelson could not attend the Aging Task Force and sought an update, especially regarding policy. Los Angeles County (LAC) was considering formation of a Department of Aging and it was important to ensure PLWH are addressed.
- Mr. Rosales asked about Task Force membership. The Consumer Caucus raised the topic so he was unsure why they did not address it themselves. He added the City of Los Angeles had a Department of Aging and HIV was on its radar.
- Ms. Barrit noted this was just the first, organizing meeting. Four people attended. Initial deliverables pertain to using data to better understand PLWH over 50.
- ➡ Ms. Barrit will provide the Aging Task Force Work Plan for review once developed.

IV. REPORTS

5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT:

- Ms. Barrit noted the draft Health Equity Assessment Worksheet in the packet was a proposed mechanism to facilitate being more intentional in discussion and analysis of health equity conversations whether at the Commission or Committee level. She adapted it for the Commission from a Seattle WA Race Equity Tool Kit and was presenting it at all Committees for input.
- ➡ Forward revision suggestions to Ms. Barrit prior to a fuller review of the document at the April meeting.
- a. **Committee Work Plan 2019:**
 - ➡ Add monitoring President Trump's HIV/AIDS plan, "Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America," to Work Plan.

6. CO-CHAIR REPORT: There was no report.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. REVIEW DRAFT 2019 POLICY PRIORITIES:

- Ms. Tolentino reviewed the track-change document included in the packet.
 - ↪ Bullet 1, Sub-bullet 2: Revise "...pre-existing conditions, including HIV and STD..." to "...pre-existing conditions_"
 - ↪ Bullet 12: Delete.
 - ↪ Bullet 13: Revise "... (ADAP) and Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Assistance Program (PrEP-AP)." to "... (ADAP), Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis Assistance Program (PrEP-AP), Mediqaap, Office of AIDS Health Insurance Premium Payment (OA-HIPP), and Employer Based HIPP (EB-HIPP)."

MOTION #3: Approve 2019 Public Policy Priorities, as revised, for Executive Committee review (*Passed by Consensus*).

8. COUNTY POLICY ISSUES:

- Ms. Nelson reported the Trans Latina Coalition launched their Trans Policy Agenda a few weeks ago. It was quite long with four goals and strategies around various topics, e.g., educational access and research justice, gender justice and identity autonomy, and housing and health care. The full Agenda was available on their website.
- State Senator Holly Mitchell announced her candidacy for the District 2 Supervisorial seat in the November 2019 election. Several other potential candidates have since withdrawn. If elected, the Board of Supervisors (BOS) would be all female.
- ➡ Staff will distribute the Trans Policy Agenda for general review.

a. Housing Policy:

- Ms. Nelson said the Ad Hoc Committee on People Experiencing Homelessness of the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) held multiple listening sessions over a year and has now released a 150-page report. It addresses key session insights, e.g., institutional barriers, incarceration, low wages, child welfare.
- Black people experience homelessness at a much higher rate in LAC. Representing just 9% of LAC's general population, Black people comprise 40% of the population experiencing homelessness.
- The report, available on LAHSA's website, includes recommendations to address barriers identified. She encouraged monitoring how LAHSA, LAC, the City of Los Angeles, service providers, and others address the recommendations.
- LAC's "3rd Annual Homeless Initiative Conference" was 2/7/2019. Susan Forrest, Bridget Gordon, Mr. Brown, Mr. Goddard, and she attended the all day event offering presentations, panels, and some performances. An especially notable panel on racism and stigma reiterated many LAHSA report points. There were six Housing Innovation Challenge awardees - half architectural firms for, e.g., modular units, and half providers. It is hoped projects will be successful in quickly building out and placing individuals in units in a manner feasible for LAC to replicate.
- Mr. Goddard attended a capacity building workshop with many of the presenters from foundations and government agencies. They did express concern about risks associated with the massive infusion of dollars into the homeless arena destabilizing agencies adjusting to, e.g., going from a budget of \$15 to \$30 million within six months.
- Ms. Nelson said the 2019 Homeless Count was done, but data was not yet compiled. LAHSA was advising at its Service Planning Area (SPA) quarterly meetings that numbers would likely be slightly higher than last year. At least part of the expected increase was attributed to new specialty teams, e.g., to take a count at LAX International Airport.
- LAHSA was releasing 2019-2020 Measure H funding recommendations that week with a public meeting and webinar.
- She and Mr. Brown also planned to attend the Measure H Citizens Oversight Committee meeting on 3/7/2019.
- Governor Gavin Newsom has announced initiation of a California Homelessness Commission. He would like \$100 million in funding to develop a strategy that focuses on housing and mental issues, and address underlying causes that keep people on the streets. Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg will head the Commission.
- A letter in the packet to Senate and House Appropriations Subcommittees Chairs and Ranking Members from the National AIDS Housing Coalition (NAHC) requests a \$13 million increase to \$406 million in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 National Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) funds for rising needs. NAHC was seeking letters of support.
- Ms. Barrit observed, despite massive funding increases system-wide for homeless services, urgent implementation of services still lags. As noted earlier, there are challenges such as risks to organizations scaling up quickly.
- Public Policy might consider high impact, systems-wide policy recommendations to help elevate PLWH within this very siloed system. Another consideration is that increased outside funding for PLWH will impact Ryan White expenditures.
- ➡ Ms. Nelson will forward information on the release of Measure H recommendations to Ms. Barrit for distribution.

b. Los Angeles County HIV/AIDS Strategy (LACHAS) Policy Work Group:

- The Work Group met that day, reviewed the LACHAS Policy Recommendations Matrix, and identified high priorities with action steps based on the data available a few months into the Governor's administration and Legislature.
- One main item identified was a need to increase pressure on the Office of the Governor regarding briefing gaps on the epidemics task force between the staff and Governor's level. Advocates plan to address the issue shortly.
- There was also apparent misinformation pertaining to the \$2 million community ask to fund a formalized task force with some doable steps. It was being confused with \$60 million to encompass multiple community asks.
- The Work Group identified key steps pertaining to access to and reporting of data, briefing Health Deputies, and continuing pressure on the Legislature and Office of the Governor on epidemic efforts.
- It was considering folding back into the Public Policy Committee now that priorities and actions steps were distilled.
- ➡ Staff will email the Matrix to the Committee before its April meeting for review and input on Work Group future.

c. STD Motion Follow-Up:

- Mr. Fox noted the STD motion passed by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) has several sections. One pertains to resources, both augmenting existing resources and initiating new ones to combat the STD epidemic. Letters regarding augmentation of existing providers have gone out. Requests For Proposals (RFPs) for new funding were expected soon.
- Another section of the motion commits LAC advocacy to support community advocates in Sacramento during budget season. It agrees to provide support for the STD community ask, but Mr. Fox noted that is linked with HIV and Hepatitis C community asks so all three should be supported jointly. Statewide activists went to Sacramento in February to meet with leadership staff, Budget Committee staff, and caucuses. An LAC staff person attended all meetings.
- He was not familiar with the issue, but was learning and did bring LAC letters of support to each meeting. LAC has committed to ongoing advocacy in collaboration with the community.
- LAC was also supporting a public health infrastructure ask through the Health Officers Association of California. That ask is much broader, but does include HIV and STDs so there are some questions concerning coordination of the asks.
- Mr. Baker acknowledged this notable success. Commission advocacy to increase local resources for the STD response developed into an LAC commitment to work closely with local advocates, direct LAC Sacramento advocates to work with community advocates, and issue a letter presented by its health lobbyists. LAC has occasionally collaborated with community advocates on specific bills or issues, but he could not recall LAC ever fully signing on to a community ask.
- Mr. Fox felt the Commission's work has also given those engaged in policy at the state and federal levels ammunition and leverage because they can point to LAC's leadership and allocation of funds as a smaller entity already stepping up.

9. STATE LEGISLATION AND BUDGET:

a. End the Epidemics - HIV, HCV, and STDs:

- Mr. Fox noted the three, individual budget asks in the packet. Advocates are presenting these proposals as a package. Most items in the proposals have been sought for some time, especially since funding was cut in 2009. The main change was that funding requested was much larger than in recent years.
- Advocacy was with Budget Committees, relevant leadership, staff, and caucuses. Usually advocacy and materials are accepted with little feedback. Hearings will be held towards the end of April on the Senate side and at the beginning of May on the Assembly side, notably later than usual. There is time for more advocacy, but advocates must get on hearing agendas. Initial votes will be after the May Revise which should reflect state tax revenue.
- Advocates are stressing this year the need for ongoing, not one-time, funding. Counties, public health departments, and community organizations struggle to implement services with one-time funding, especially when it arrives seven or eight months into a fiscal year. These are ongoing public health crises that require ongoing funding.
- Mr. Pulsipher reported a 4/6/2019 public launch of the consensus statement seeks to use public and media attention to increase pressure on the Office of the Governor and the Legislature to convene a task force on developing an HIV, HCV, AND STD strategy. The tool kit includes a press release, talking points, social media, and sign-on letter.
- ➡ Mr. Pulsipher will forward the tool kit for distribution.

b. Legislative Docket:

- Regarding Medi-Cal expansion, Governor Newsome has committed to expand coverage for eligible undocumented persons from those aged 18 and under up to those aged 25 and under. Cost was estimated at \$196 million.
- A proposed bill would expand coverage to all eligible undocumented persons, but that would cost in the billions.
- Mr. Fox noted, as people become eligible for Medi-Cal, they cease to be eligible for comparable Ryan White services.
- Mr. Baker said undocumented persons now receiving Ryan White (RW) Ambulatory Outpatient Medical (AOM) were the majority. DHSP specifically does not track status, but the estimate before implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and other changes was 18-20% of just under 20,000 people. After migration to other payers, the percentage of undocumented people in AOM rose while the overall total of those receiving AOM has fallen to about 6,800.
- The body discussed planning issues as people continue to migrate out of RW to other payers. DHSP had thought when people first began to migrate out of RW to, e.g., ACA, that they would still turn to RW for supportive services, but evidence shows people migrating to other medical care do not use RW services for which they remain eligible. DHSP only has RW data so does not know if they access such services elsewhere or not. There may be unmet need.
- Mr. Fox noted language for bills on the initial Docket was still being developed and additional bills will be added.
- Mr. Leue strongly supported SB 233, Immunity from arrest, which prohibits use of condoms as evidence. All sex worker rights organizations of which he was aware favored the bill and the Commission previously supported a similar one.

- Regarding President Trump's Plan, Mr. Fox and Mr. Baker were in Washington, DC, the prior week and, for the first time since the inauguration, someone from the administration's Domestic Policy Council spoke with them. She had history with reauthorization in the past, but lacked details now. Politico reported a \$250 million figure. In the past, the administration has taken funds from other related allocations, but most advocates are considering it as a beginning.
- Carl Schmidt, Director, AIDS Institute, and John Wiesman, Secretary of State, Washington, have been selected as Co-Chairs for the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS (PACHA). An initial meeting was planned for April.
- ➡ Add President Trump's HIV/AIDS plan, "Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America," to 2019 Legislative Docket.
- ➡ Add to Docket: AB 362, Safe Injection Sites; AB 993, HIV Specialists and Primary Care Providers; SB 673, School Sexual Education (not favored and likely to die quickly).
- ➡ Request to identify and add to Docket Equality California supported bill that would bar use of religious freedom to discriminate against LGBTQ people or those seeking reproductive health care.
- ➡ Mr. Leue will collaborate with staff to provide a speaker on legislative sex work models, especially the Swiss model.

10. FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE:

- The National Association of State and Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD) has updated their HIV report.
- A new regulation restricts Title X family planning services from referring for abortion services.

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:

- Ms. Nelson announced the California HIV/AIDS Policy Research Centers would present "A Data-Driven Approach to Getting to Zero" on 3/22/2019, 9:30 am to 12:00 noon, at APLA Health. Register on their website.
- Mr. Pulsipher reported Kaiser Permanente patients do not need to use Gilead co-payments for PrEP-AP.
- Mr. Leue announced Desert AIDS Project was collaborating with the Free Speech Coalition to link people via a warm line to a broad range of services including primary care, PEP, PrEP, STI testing and counseling, substance use, and mental health. The long-term goal is to continue to add organizations to the network nationwide.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

14. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.