



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**

June 3, 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>	Kyle Baker	Usaldo Bocdo	Cheryl Barrit, MPIA
Katja Nelson, MPP, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Jerry D. Gates, PhD	Jason Brown	Jane Nachazel
Alasdair Burton (<i>Alt.</i>)	Terry Goddard, MA	Craig Scott, MA	Julie Tolentino, MPH
Lee Kochems, MA	Eduardo Martinez (<i>Alt.</i>)	Peter Soto	
Eric Paul Leue			DPH/DHSP STAFF
Ricky Rosales			None
Martin Sattah, MD			

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- 8) **Graphic:** SB-50, California Republic, 5/1/2019
- 9) **List:** City of Los Angeles, List of Services Provided by City Department of Aging, 2018-2019
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- 11) **Memorandum:** Budget and Finance Committee Reportback on Question No. #636 - Cost Benefit Analysis of Providing These Services at Recreation and Parks Facilities as Compared to Opening a New Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer (LGBTQ) Mini-Multipurpose Center, 5/6/2019
- 12) **Memorandum:** Department of Aging - Additional Requests and New Mini-Multipurpose Senior Center, 5/7/2019
- 13) **Memorandum:** Department of Aging - Cost/Benefit Analysis of Providing Senior Services at RAP Facilities Compared to Mini-Multipurpose Senior Centers, 5/7/2019
- 14) **Memorandum:** Department of Aging - Resources Needed to Increase Funding for Services for Homeless Seniors Commensurate with Percentage Increase of Homeless Seniors; Return to Pre-Recession Staffing and Service Levels, 5/7/2019
- 15) **Memorandum:** Department of Aging Response to Budget and Finance Committee Budget Impact Question Number 644 - "Report Resources Required to Increase Funding for Services for Homeless Seniors Commensurate with the Percentage Increase of Homelessness Among Seniors," 5/7/2019

- 16) **Memorandum:** Support Senate Proposals: \$20 Million General Fund Annually for HIV Prevention; \$20 Million General Fund Annually for STD Prevention - Support Assembly Proposal: \$10 Million General Fund Annually for HCV Prevention, 5/29/2019
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 - 27) **Executive Summary:** Los Angeles County, Governor's FY 2019-20 May Budget Revision, 5/9/2019
 - 28) **Assembly Constitutional Amendment:** No. 1, as amended, Aguiar-Curry: Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval, 5/16/2019
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 - 30) **H.R. Bill:** No. 1384, as introduced, Pramila: Medicare for All Act of 2019, 2/27/2019
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CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS: Ms. Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:01 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 5/6/2019 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. **Committee Work Plan 2019:** Last week, Commission Co-Chairs completed the first item to visit all Board of Supervisors (BOS) District Offices to advocate for the STD response. She also attended and found Health Deputies committed to remain cognizant of the Commission's work. Co-Chairs stress that this is an ongoing effort and hope to meet with Supervisors next.
- b. **Standing Packet Materials:**
 - Ms. Barrit noted the copy of the recently revised Code of Conduct approved at the 4/11/2019 Commission Meeting. All meeting attendees are expected to adhere to the behaviors it reflects and Commissioners are asked to sign a copy to confirm receipt and acknowledgement. At full meetings, Co-Chairs will remind attendees of the Code and it will be projected on the screen. It will also be in packets and an updated poster board was on order for the Conference Room.

- The 2019 Policy Priorities was included as a reference point for the conversation on additional Legislative Docket items.
- Ms. Barrit recognized the service of Terry Goddard, MA who has chosen not to renew his membership after 14 years of service. He previously chaired this Committee and, prior to that, chaired the Standards and Best Practices Committee where he did significant foundational work pertaining to the Housing Task Force.
- ➡ Commissioners who have not yet signed the Code were requested to do so and submit the copy to staff.

6. CO-CHAIR REPORT:

- Mr. Fox reported a 5/16/2019 congressional hearing before the House Oversight and Reform Committee addressed how best to prevent HIV and high drug prices. It was a rare and inspiring event. Speakers included Daniel O'Day, Chief Executive Officer, Gilead Sciences, Inc.; Professor Robert Grant, MD, MPH, School of Medicine, University of California San Francisco, preeminent PrEP medical authority; and a physician using PrEP. The Committee is primarily spearheaded by Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Representative Katie Hill, from California's 25th District, also asked excellent questions.
- In a video clip featuring Representative Ocasio-Cortez, she did not hold Mr. O'Day accountable as he was only responding to a system of incentives. She blamed Congress. Every developed country except the United States guarantees health care as a right, but Congress lacks fortitude to kick pharmaceutical lobbyists out of its offices and respond to the electorate's needs.
- PrEP costs \$8 dollars per month in Australia, but \$2,000 dollars per month in the United States because Congress allows that. Out of every ten people who need PrEP, nine cannot access it, primarily due to cost. She noted earlier there was an impassioned plea that corporations such as Apple should be able to enjoy profits, but people's lives are not commodities.
- In economics, a demand curve addresses elasticity of commodity prices using determinants that impact what people are willing to pay. That applies to things like cell phones. A person might pay more, less, or not buy one. It does not apply to how much a person will pay to live. That is everything, even to going into debt. That makes health care essentially different.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. COUNTY POLICY ISSUES:

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

- Ms. Barrit reported the Comprehensive HIV Plan Goals and Objectives Work Group reconvened last week to begin work on the Stigma Reduction Plan. The next meeting will be 7/8/2019, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon.
- ➡ Public Policy members are encouraged to attend the Goals and Objectives Work Group to offer stigma reduction input.

b. Housing Policy:

- Ms. Nelson reported the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) 2019 Homeless Count would be released at the 6/4/2019 BOS Meeting at 11:00 am. No press conference or other event was planned, most likely because numbers were expected to be higher. She will attend and will be able to report back at the 6/13/2019 Commission Meeting.
- The United Way planned a call on the release on 6/7/2019 at 12:00 noon. The Regional Homeless Advisory Council (RHAC) also planned a meeting on the release on 6/6/2019.
- Governor Gavin Newsom has appointed his Homeless and Supportive Housing Advisory Task Force. Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas is Co-Chair along with City of Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg, JD. Governor Newsom's May budget revise includes \$1 billion to fight homelessness across a variety of services.
- The California Housing Partnership produces summaries of each county annually. This year's Los Angeles County (LAC) Housing Emergency update was in the packet for review. A graphic on SB 50, now a two-year bill was also in the packet.
- ➡ Ms. Nelson will forward information on the United Way and RHAC meetings regarding LAHSA's 2019 Homeless Count.

c. STD Motion Follow-Up:

- Mr. Fox reported LAC was continuing to support community asks at the state level including \$20 million ongoing for STDs statewide. LAC representatives were at subcommittee hearings to support the proposal, the first time that has occurred. Representatives have also drafted support letters to the Budget Committees and subcommittees.
- Ms. Barrit reported Mario Pérez, MPH, Director, DHSP, has done an overview at the Committee level of activity since the Commission sent the STD Motion to the BOS. Staff will work with Mr. Baker to prepare a Commission update.

8. HIV AND AGING TASK FORCE UPDATE:

- Ms. Nelson agendized this topic because there are aging-related LAC and State efforts planned. She suggested considering whether Public Policy wanted to make recommendations pertaining to aging PLWH.

- Mr. Rosales noted a sub-packet of materials on the Department of Aging in the packet beginning with a list of services. including 16 Multi-Purpose Senior Centers. The Department of Aging 2019-2020 budget was also in the packet.
- Departments submit requested budgets for the next fiscal year in October or November. The Office of the Mayor engages a deliberations process including hearings, usually in December. The Mayor's proposed budget is generally released in Spring. Departments then submit a budget letter to the City Council's Budget and Finance Committee requesting items lacking in the Mayor's budget. After hearings, the City Council requests reportbacks on items from the budget letters or other items.
- Documents from various stages of the process for the Department of Aging were in the packet excepting the final budget which had not been released when he forwarded the information. Mr. Fox reported funding was approved for the mini-Multi-Purpose Senior Center on the LGBT Center campus. It will be the first LGBT-specific senior center in LAC.
- Ms. Barrit said common questions were whether City of Los Angeles services were only available within City boundaries and/or were restricted to City residents. Mr. Rosales replied that depended on the funding source, e.g., funding for Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) was from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) so HOPWA services were available countywide to all LAC residents. He believed Department of Aging services were also federally funded so should be available county wide. In any case, City services do not turn people away.
- As for his own AIDS Coordinator's Office (ACO), Mr. Rosales reported his request to the City Council was \$60,000. They asked him to return with a higher number and AOC finally received \$200,000, a 20% budget increase. Most funds will go towards the Needle Exchange Program (NEP), in particular to expand syringe exchange in encampments. LAHSA will be partnering with ACO, with no cost to the latter, in its efforts to reach those living in encampments.
- Ms. Nelson noted LAC released its Purposeful Aging Los Angeles (PALA) Initiative on 8/7/2018. The full document is over 100 pages with nine sections of recommendations. The PALA Executive Summary does identify populations with higher need for aging-specific services. The LGBTQ community is one of those populations, but she has not yet heard details.
- ➡ Refer PALA Initiative topic to 6/25/2019 Aging Task Force Meeting. Ms. Nelson will help coordinate a Task Force and Public Policy Committee effort to develop policy recommendations and generate a support letter over the next few months.
- ➡ Mr. Rosales will identify, if possible, whether LAHSA funding for its partnership with ACO is via one of the strategies.

9. STATE LEGISLATION AND BUDGET:

- Mr. Fox reported members were named to the State Legislature's Budget Conference Committee and it began hearings 5/30/2019. The Chair is Senator Holly Mitchell, 30th District. The Committee is composed of Senators and Assembly members tasked with reconciling the Senate and Assembly Budgets into one that can be presented to the Governor.
 - The Committee had not yet heard health and human services issues, but hearings were scheduled to resume that afternoon. Funding for Ending the Epidemics: HIV, Hepatitis C, and STD requires reconciliation because the Assembly offered \$10 million ongoing and the Senate \$20 million ongoing. A \$2 million request to fund a task force was rejected by both bodies, but it is a good sign that both funded the initiative. Advocacy letters have been submitted and calls made.
 - Hearings can be viewed live on www.calchannel.com. Brief public comments are permitted once hearings are complete.
 - Decisions are made in closed session to inform one Committee Report reconciling all numbers. The Budget is due to the Governor by June 15th. He has until June 31st to make line item vetoes and sign the final Budget. It goes into effect July 1st.
- a. **Governor's Initiative to Reduce Drug Pricing:**
- Mr. Fox noted the document in the packet regarding Governor Gavin Newsom's "California for All" Health Care initiative, in particular his single-purchaser system for prescription drugs. The primary concern for the Commission would be if the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) were rolled into a larger statewide purchasing system. That could have significant consequences for the amount of rebates ADAP receives from pharmaceutical companies.
 - ADAPs now nationally group together to negotiate better prices and larger supplemental rebates. There are also rebates on the rebates which provide somewhat more flexible funding than Ryan White or obligatory rebate dollars. For example, they fund California's PrEP Assistance Program (PAP) which could not be funded via Ryan White Part B.
 - The California HIV Alliance has sent a letter to the Governor, Legislature, and Budget Conference Committee agreeing that bulk purchasing can lower outrageous drug costs, but stressing that ADAP should be left alone.
 - Ms. Barrit reported Public Policy had requested she speak with the California Office of AIDS (OA) on their efforts to assess any impacts on ADAP. She spoke with Commissioner Karl Halfman, MS, Part B (OA) Representative, who reported that assessment was underway, specifically to determine whether it would be more advantageous to retain the current ADAP process. OA will make a recommendation based on its assessment.
 - ➡ Agreed to consider a possible letter to the BOS or other action to support overall efforts to reduce drug costs while protecting ADAP. Any changes will not take effect in the short term so there is time to develop the best approach.

b. Legislative Docket:

- Executive reviewed positions approved at the 5/6/2019 meeting and agendized the Docket for approval at the 6/13/2019 Commission. As an ongoing document, the Public Policy Co-Chairs will simply note changes on presentation.
- ➡ Agreed to additions/revisions to the Docket approved on 5/6/2019 as reflected in the table below.

Bill	Title	Comments	Position
AB 53	Rental housing: unlawful housing practices: applications: criminal records	Prohibits inquiring about or requiring disclosure of criminal background information during initial rental application assessment phase.	Support: With information request on: 1. Does it apply to sex offenders? 2. How does it apply to sex offenders from out of state?
AB 993	Health care coverage: HIV specialists	(Was AB 1534 in 2017.) Requires health care service plans starting in 2019 to allow HIV specialist to be primary care provider (PCP) status if requested and meets plans' specialist PCP criteria. (Public Policy changed from Watch to Oppose on 9/5/2017 [4/25/2018 Docket] as did not go far enough to address network adequacy, parity, and quality of care across all health systems; unclear on impact to Ryan White funded services. Changed to Watch on 4/1/2019 pending information from AIDS Healthcare Foundation [AHF] and Nazarian's Office, which was not received as of 5/6/2019.)	Watch: Compare 2017 and current bill in light of questions as here noted, with facility in accessing HIV specialist care, reimbursement rates, and as noted in pertinent minutes provided. Request AHF presentation.
AB 1481	Tenancy termination: just cause	Strengthens protection against eviction.	Support
AB 1483	Housing data: collection and reporting	Creates housing production database to improve accessibility of housing data.	Support
AB 1486	Surplus land	Facilitates development of low- and moderate-income housing.	Support
ACA 1	Local government financing: affordable housing and public infrastructure: voter approval	(Companion to SCA 1.) Facilitates development of low-income housing.	Support
SCA 1	Public housing projects	(Companion to ACA 1.) Facilitates development of low-income housing.	Support
HR 1384	Medicare for All Act of 2019	Total healthcare system.	Support (LAC: Support)

10. FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE:**a. STD Federal Action Plan:**

- Ms. Barrit reported a request from Federal partners for feedback regarding how the Federal government can best respond to several areas such as rising STD rates, addressing barriers, and reducing stigma associated with STD testing.
- A quick turnaround on feedback was also requested with responses due today. Ms. Barrit did propose a possible joint letter with DHSP but, while DHSP was open to the idea, time was too brief and a response was not received.
- Instead, Ms. Barrit developed a formal Commission response under Commission Co-Chairs Al Ballesteros, MBA and Grissel Granados, MSW signatures which was submitted that morning. She plans to obtain Commission Co-Chair concurrence on including the letter in the 6/13/2019 Commission packet.
- The letter is closely aligned with the 2019 Policy Priorities. Key points include: unfettered access to care, including preservation and enhancement of ACA and Medicaid Expansion nationwide; viewing STDs from a health equity lens, ensuring disproportionately impacted communities receive adequate resources to respond; and, mirroring many local

recommendations included in the Motion to the BOS, e.g., enhanced capacity of surveillance systems for local and state health departments to implement and provide partner-delivered therapy, and scaled up testing and treatment.

- The four-page letter also addresses implementation of comprehensive sexuality education; funding for Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) with scaled up training, culturally appropriate for communities served; and, advocates for convening bodies like the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS on the national and local levels.
- Several organizations including the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) have encouraged all Local Health Jurisdictions (LHJs) to submit their own comments. Several were doing so.
- ➡ Staff will update Federal response as available. Federal report backs on feedback generally take two to three months.

b. Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America:

- Mr. Fox provided an update on the Plan which was introduced during the President's State of the Union Address. It has been operationalized by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program (RWHAP), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).
- Appropriations currently look favorable with hundreds of millions of dollars in additional funding. Details on big federal line item increases that fund HIV-specific services will not be available until after September. The HRSA funding will be allocated mainly through the Bureau of Primary Health Care to implement PrEP programs through Community Health Centers (CHC) nationwide. Priorities are detailed in the Plan discussed here earlier and available online.
- Gilead Sciences, Inc. also committed in another part of the hearing sampled earlier to donate two million PrEP prescriptions per year for the next eleven years, including labs and medical visits. They will donate Truvada initially, but will change to Descovy if and when that is approved by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) for use as PrEP.
- Mr. O'Day was asked during the hearing if Gilead intended to take a tax deduction for the donation. He said it did, but a Congresswoman suggested just lowering the price. However, overall Gilead actions appear positive, e.g., Gilead is allowing the Truvada patent to expire so it can go to a generic form in 2020 rather than 2021.
- Gilead's donation will not supplant support for anyone already on any of the Gilead patient assistance programs.
- Mr. Fox noted the "Break the Patent" national campaign challenges Gilead's right to patent a drug whose development benefited from millions of taxpayer dollars via the CDC and NIH. Advocates feel some royalties should go back to the government to invest in programs rather than all going to profit. That campaign has definitely influenced Gilead.
- The Congresswoman's suggestion to lower the price highlights the barrier of cost or perceived cost. California has done well in providing wrap-around services so that cost is the last possible consideration. In many other states, however, cost remains a significant barrier. Mr. Scott stated perception of cost in California can still kill. He buried a friend a few months ago who did not get treatment because he thought he could not afford it. More work remains to be done.
- On a related matter, the Trump administration has reinterpreted Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) pertaining to gender identity which reverses protections for transgender persons. Lawsuits are being filed.
- A new rule pertaining to religious and moral conscience has also prompted a lawsuit filed in a Federal District Court in Northern California. The lawsuit has multiple LGBT, abortion, and separation of church and state plaintiffs including the LGBT Center. A temporary injunction was being requested to halt implementation.

VI. NEXT STEPS

11. TASK/ASSIGNMENTS RECAP: There were no additional items.

12. AGENDA DEVELOPMENT FOR NEXT MEETING: There were no additional items.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

13. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS: Ms. Nelson will be on vacation in July.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

14. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.