



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



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VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING

**Approved
April 4, 2022**

Presence at virtual meetings is recorded based on the attendance roll call. Only members of the Commission on HIV are accorded voting privileges and must verbally acknowledge their attendance in order to vote.

Approved meeting minutes are available on the Commission's website; meeting recordings are available upon request.

**PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE
FIRST ANNUAL VIRTUAL PUBLIC POLICY PRIORITIES STAKEHOLDER
COMMUNITY CONSULTATION
MEETING MINUTES**

March 7, 2022

COMMITTEE MEMBERS			
P = Present A = Absent EA = Excused Absence			
Katja Nelson, MPP, Co-Chair	P	Eduardo Martinez (Alternate)	A
Lee Kochems, MA, Co-Chair	P	Isabella Rodriguez (Alternate)	P
Alasdair Burton (Alternate)	P	Ricky Rosales	P
Felipe Findley	P	Martin Sattah, MD	P
Jerry Gates, PhD	P		
Gerald Garth	A		
COMMISSION STAFF AND CONSULTANTS			
Carolyn Echols-Watson, AJ King, Consultant, Jose Rangel-Garibay, Catherine Lapointe, Sonja Wright			

*Some participants may not have been captured electronically. Attendance can be corrected by emailing the Commission.

*Members of the public may confirm their attendance by contacting Commission staff at hivcomm@lachiv.org.

*Meeting minutes may be corrected up to one year from the date of approval.

Meeting agenda and materials can be found on the Commission's website at <https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/0234f496-d2b7-00b6-17a4-b43e949b70a2/a3f44255-277a-4569-8441-6d3e4193910c/Pkt-Community%20Consultation%20-03072022-Final-merged.pdf>

CALL TO ORDER-INTRODUCTIONS-MEETING OBJECTIVES-DESIRED OUTCOME

Katja Nelson and Lee Kochems, Public Policy Committee (PPC) Co-Chairs, called the meeting to order, led introductions, and discussed the meeting objectives and desired outcomes. The purpose of the PPC Community Consultation was to identify key policy priorities utilizing feedback from the community.

I. OVERVIEW OF PUBLIC POLICY PURPOSE AND CHARGE

a. Overview of Current Policy Priorities

- K. Nelson and L. Kochems presented an overview of the PPC, found in the meeting packet. The presentation included examples of Commission on HIV (COH) policy accomplishments, PPC responsibilities, and policy priorities.
- K. Nelson highlighted the current PPC policy priorities, found in the meeting packet. The policy priorities are racism, housing, mental health, sexual health, consumers, aging, women, transgender, general health care, service delivery, criminalization, and data.

II. SPEAKER PRESENTATIONS (INVITED)

a. Black AIDS Institute

Toni Newman, Interim President and CEO, Black AIDS Institute (BAI), discussed the work of the BAI. Key points are as follows:

- BAI is a Black think tank focused on ending the HIV epidemic by 2030. Priority populations for the organization are cisgender women and transgender individuals, specifically Black and Latinx transgender women.
- Mental health, substance use, women, and transgender individuals are policy priorities for BAI.
- BAI supports SB 923 (Wiener): Gender-affirming care, also known as the transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex (TGI) Inclusive Care Act.
- BAI encourages increased funding for minority-led HIV organizations in Los Angeles County to provide more wraparound services such as housing and food security.

K. Nelson inquired about barriers to obtaining funding faced by minority-led organizations.

T. Newman discussed the need for funding for mental health and substance use services such as hiring highly qualified social workers, substance use and mental health counselors, and provide in-house case management.

L. Kochems asked how the PPC can gain support from BAI to ensure harm-reduction strategies, such as needle exchange services, safe injections sites, and overdose prevention sites, are in place. BAI supports a harm reduction model.

Martin Sattah, MD, discussed difficulty providing whole-person care to patients who test positive for HIV. Mental health professionals and addiction treatment specialists are needed to address this issue.

b. Black Lives Matter

There was no speaker available.

c. Justice Los Angeles Coalition

Ambrose Brooks, Justice Los Angeles Coalition (JusticeLA) Coordinator, provided an

overview of the program. Key points are as follows:

- JusticeLA was formed in 2017 as a coalition in partnership with grassroots organizations and impacted communities.
- Goals of the coalition are to stop jail expansion, reduce the footprint of incarceration, and to reinvest dollars away from incarceration and into community-led alternatives to incarceration.
- JusticeLA works to end incarceration; reform pre-trial incarceration; develop incarceration alternatives; incorporate a community-based system of care; improve district attorney, law enforcement, and judicial accountability; and advocate for budget changes.
- PPC policy priorities that align with the work of JusticeLA include decarceration [the action or process of reducing the number of people imprisoned as part of a criminal justice system] of the pre-trial population, harm reduction approaches, diversion out of jail and into community-based services, budget advocacy, racism and health equity, mental health, substance use, general health care, decriminalization, and gender justice.
- JusticeLA supports Measure J, also known as Care First Community Investment, which allocates funding to underserved populations in LA County. Measure J requires that by 2024, no less than 10% of the county's locally generated revenue be allocated to improve conditions of underserved communities.
- Justice LA prioritizes budget reinvestment to communities in need.
- JusticeLA supports AB 1670 (Bryan): Criminal justice: Commission on Alternatives to Incarceration and AB 2534 (Bryan): Survivor Support and Harm Prevention Pilot Program Act

Felipe Findley echoed the importance of recognizing mass incarceration as a driver of the HIV epidemic and expressed support for including decarceration efforts to the work of the Commission on HIV (COH).

d. The BREATHE Act

There was no speaker available.

e. USC Street Medicine

Brett Feldman, Director of Street Medicine, USC, presented on the street medicine program.

Key points are as follows:

- The USC Street Medicine program provides medication, labs, ultrasounds, EKGs, mental health services, and substance use disorder treatment to LA County's homeless population.
- PPC priorities that align with the program are equity and service delivery. Other policy suggestions include funding and new policies to support direct delivery of comprehensive care on the street; training and workforce development to increase the

number of street medicine programs in LA County.

K. Nelson inquired about barriers to accessing health services for the homeless population. B. Feldman noted medical mistrust, financial barriers, lacking documentation needed to apply for health insurance, and missed appointments attributed to the time/space disassociation people experience in unsheltered homelessness. He also stressed the need to support policies that recognize the street as a legitimate place to deliver care to receive Medi-Cal reimbursement for services provided.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION/PUBLIC COMMENTS

a. How do you envision changing or expanding the Public Policy Committee's (PPC) current policy priorities to best align with efforts to end the HIV epidemic? Please share any recommendations.

- M. Sattah suggested more funding towards care coordination services to provide patients with non-medical care and support services.
- B. Feldman discussed the Street Medicine model and how it could be enhanced by adding a housing navigator to their teams, keeping clients engaged while they wait for housing, and changing the Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) to measure the severity of medical need and thus a greater need for housing.
- K. Nelson discussed the need for updated language in the policy priorities such as decarceration and street medicine.

b. Upon review of the PPC's policy priorities, and in relation to your organization's mission, please identify the top 3 priorities that the committee should focus on this year.

- K. Nelson identified mental health, substance use and harm reduction strategies, transgender health, equity, racism, and coordination of care as common policy priorities.
- L. Kochems identified decarceration, housing, and street medicine as holistic HIV care strategies.
- F. Findley discussed the need to decriminalize homelessness and reduce policing and incarceration.

c. In order to achieve the priorities identified today, what are some concrete policy and advocacy actions the PPC can undertake to support the Commission's efforts to end the HIV epidemic.

- K. Nelson identified letters to the Board of Supervisors and meetings with health deputies as concrete policy advocacy actions the PPC can take to support the Commission's efforts to end the HIV epidemic.

III. CLOSING REMARKS AND NEXT STEPS

- The April meeting will include further discussion on policy priorities and implementation

strategies.

- The PPC will initiate a review of local, state, and federal bills for inclusion in the 2022 legislative docket.
- K. Nelson, L. Kochems, and COH staff will develop a summary of the Community Consultation in preparation for the April meeting.
- The PPC will continue to request input from Black Lives Matter LA and The BREATHE Act who were unable to present at the Community Consultation.