



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



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**PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

August 6, 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>	Lee Kochems, MA	Joan Allen	Cheryl Barrit
Terry Goddard, MA, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Eric Paul Leue	Anthony Chica	Carolyn Echols-Watson
Kyle Baker	Greg Wilson	Craig Pulsipher	Doris Reed
Alasdair Burton (<i>Alt.</i>)		Craig Scott	Julie Tolentino, MPH
Jerry D. Gates, PhD		Peter Soto	DHSP STAFF
Andrew Lopez (<i>Alt.</i>)		Josh Yeager	None
Eduardo Martinez (<i>Alt.</i>)			
Katja Nelson			
Ricky Rosales			
Martin Sattah, MD			

CONTENTS OF COMMITTEE PACKET

- 1) **Agenda:** Public Policy Committee Agenda, 8/6/2018
- 2) **Minutes:** Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, 7/2/2018
- 3) **Handouts:** Yes on Proposition 8 Coalition, 7/23/2018
- 4) **Handouts:** No on Proposition 8 Coalition
- 5) **Table:** Los Angeles County Commission on HIV, 2018-2019 Legislative Docket, *Revised 8/1/2018*
- 6) **Resolution:** To the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV, Urging the Implementation, Access and Availability of Post-/Pre Exposure Prophylaxis (Pep/PrEP) in Los Angeles County, 10/24/2014
- 7) **Resolution:** To the Los Angeles County Commission on HIV, Recommending Expanding Resources and Access for STD Testing and Treatment, 8/6/2018
- 8) **CDC Article:** Prevalence and Predictors of Provider-Initiated HIV Test Offers Among Heterosexual Persons at Increased Risk for Acquiring HIV Infection – Virginia, 2016, 6/29/2018

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 7/2/2018 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 welcomed newly inducted Commissioner Alasdair Burton, an Alternate, as the new member of the Public Policy Committee.
- Ms. Barrit also reminded the group of the upcoming Community Strategy meeting on 8/9/2018, in Lynwood from 9:30-11:30am. Afterward there will be lunch and a brief COH meeting then an optional tour of HIV services at the MLK campus that houses several different agencies.

6. CO-CHAIR REPORT:

- Mr. Fox reported that he and other members of the HIV Alliance went to Sacramento to meet with the new Interim Director (Chief) of the Office of AIDS (Dr. Marisa Ramos). Accordingly the meeting went well and the group was invited to OA's next all staff's meeting, date not mentioned. Mr. Fox stated that he is encouraged by the new Director's openness and willingness to work with the HIV Alliance.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. DIALYSIS INITIATIVE – PROPOSITION 8:

Prior to their presentations, Mr. Fox explained the Public Policy Committee's process regarding legislation/propositions to the presenters.

a. Support:

- Ms. Allen of the SEIU United Healthcare Workers West stated that after having gone through the dialysis process with her mother several years ago, she was impressed with the level of service her mother received due primarily because her mother's treatment was done in a hospital setting. Realizing that most dialysis treatments are not done in hospitals but in centers located in strip malls, the risk of infections, need for hospitalizations and/or death is greater due to high patient to nursing staff ratio.
- On average, those whose kidneys have failed have dialysis three times a week for life unless given a new kidney. At present there are two companies (DaVita and Fresenius) that control more than 70% of the dialysis business. Their profit margin is nearly five times higher than an average hospital in California yet, none of the profits are spent on improving patient care.
- Dialysis employees have reported that chronic understaffing is a contributing factor to patient emergencies and use of 911, as workers are overwhelmed on a daily basis, which makes it difficult to deliver proper patient care or infection control.
- Prop 8 improves care for dialysis patients by limiting dialysis corporation's revenue to 15% above the amount they spend on patient care and pushes them to invest in hiring more staff, buying new medical equipment and improving facilities. In addition, the initiative can be amended by a majority vote and doesn't have to go back to voters.

b. Oppose:

- Mr. Chica and Mr. Yeager both stated that Prop 8 jeopardizes access to dialysis care for patients who are very ill and sets low limits on what insurance companies pay for dialysis treatments. Their main issues were patient concerns and access to care.
- Both feel that the proposition is deeply-flawed because the proposition disproportionately harms dialysis patients in poor, disadvantaged and rural communities where dialysis clinics already struggle to stay open. Additionally, when dialysis clinics

shut down, more patients would likely seek dialysis treatment in the more expensive hospital setting or suffer severe complications from missed treatments, ending up in hospital emergency rooms (reportedly, one missed session, is a 30% chance of death).

c. Committee's Response:

- Mr. Fox thanked each presenter for their input regarding this matter informing them that they would be notified of the Committee's final decision.
- The Committee discussed the pros and cons of Proposition 8 and felt that enough information had not been presented on either side (support and/or oppose). Further, although not exactly known, it was the group's feeling that only 1-2% of people receiving dialysis suffers from HIV and that the matter seemed out of the purview of the Commission.
- It was the consensus of the group that no position should be taken on this issue.

8. STATE LEGISLATION AND BUDGET:

a. Legislative Docket:

- Mr. Fox noted the Legislature was in recess so there was no notable legislation activity. Most bills on the Docket appear to be moving forward. It was very unlikely any large healthcare expansion bills such as Health for All would be voted out of the Legislature though language continues to be revised. Even if passed out of the Legislature, Governor Brown has stated he would not sign bills that require ongoing investments.

9. STD RESOLUTION:

- The Committee discussed the resolution recommending expanding resources and access for STD testing and treatment. Several suggestions were made as to how to make the resolution stronger including adding the words prevention and education in addition to STD testing and treatment.
- When asked where the \$30 million amount came from, Mr. Fox stated that that was an internal estimate from the Department of Public Health (DPH), of what it would take to combat and get STD under control. He stated that he would get more information from DPH regarding that number, before the resolution was finalized.
- Mr. Baker stated that it can be predicted that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) will have questions as to how the increase in resources would be spent (i.e., staffing, clinics, and supplies). He suggested that the group look at prior BOS' memos regarding this issue. Mr. Baker also stated that about a month ago, the BOS passed a motion that DPH provide a report about STDs in 60 days.
- After the discussion, Motion #3 was passed with the recommended changes. It will be presented Thursday, 8/9/2018, at the full Commission meeting then if approved, sent to the BOS.
- There was also another resolution in the packet written by the Committee on 10/24/2014 as a reference that the PEP/PrEP issue has been around for a few years. Mr. Fox noted that the 10/29/2014 resolution was instrumental in the BOS increasing funding regarding Prep and helped the BOS to pass a resolution to help establish Centers for PrEP Excellence.

10. COUNTY POLICY ISSUES

a. Housing Policy Advocacy

- Mr. Goddard stated that at the last Housing Task Force meeting on 7/25/2018, it became obvious that the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT) does not track or prioritize those with HIV when it comes to housing nor is there any indication that the form will be modified in favor of those with HIV. As a result, the group discussed developing a secondary way, outside of the VI-SPDAT, for HIV clients to access housing.
- The Housing Task Force needs support from the Public Policy Committee in moving forward with their plan to meet with the BOS' Health and Homeless Deputies.
- Ms. Nelson asked if the group would meet with the Deputies as Commissioners or as part of their respective agencies? Ms. Barrit replied that that would have to be discussed to coordinate common messaging.
- Mr. Goddard also stated that the plan is to ask LACHSA to set aside monies for housing those with HIV and tap into Measure H funds.
- Although the Housing Task Force wants another meeting in September, the date has yet to be determined to coordinate common messaging

b. LA County HIV/AIDS Strategy Policy Workgroup

- Mr. Baker stated that the second meeting of the work group was held on 8/6/2018 and that they went through and prioritized issues in the tool as it relates to strategy. Four priorities were listed. At the next meeting on 9/10/2018, the group will discuss prioritizing the priorities and setting timelines.

VI. NEXT STEPS

11. TASK/ASSIGNMENTS RECAP:

- ➡ Co-Chairs will change the STD Resolution based on today's discussion for presentation at the 8/9/2018 Commission meeting.

- 12. AGENDA DEVELOPMENT FOR NEXT MEETING:** For the next meeting there will be a legislation update and follow-up to the STD Resolution. Because the first Monday in September will be a County holiday (Labor Day), has been changed to Monday, 9/10/2018 from 1:00pm – 3:00pm.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 13. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were none.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- 14. ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned in memory of Robert Butler at 2:00 pm.