



LOS ANGELES COUNTY  
**COMMISSION ON HIV**



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HIVCOMM@LACHIV.ORG • <http://hiv.lacounty.gov> ORG • VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING

*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.*

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**

May 27, 2021

<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS</b>			
P = Present   A = Absent			
Bridget Gordon, Co-Chair	P	Katja Nelson, MPP	P
David Lee, MPH, LCSW, Co-Chair	P	Mario J. Pérez, MPH	P
Frankie Darling-Palacios	P	Juan Preciado	P
Erika Davies	A	Kevin Stalter	P
Lee Kochems, MA	P	Justin Valero, MA	P
Carlos Moreno	P		
<b>COMMISSION STAFF AND CONSULTANTS</b>			
Cheryl Barrit, Jose Rangel-Garibay, Dawn Mc Clendon, Carolyn Echols-Watson, and Sonja Wright Catherine LaPointe, Academic Intern			
<b>DHSP STAFF</b>			
Julie Tolentino, MPH			

\*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](mailto:hivcomm@lachiv.org).

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

**Meeting agenda and materials can be found on the Commission's website at**

[http://hiv.lacounty.gov/Portals/HIV/Commission%20Meetings/2021/Packet/Pkt\\_EC\\_052721\\_rev3.pdf?ver=0A0ZBddJu\\_notnu1mCYE4A%3d%3d](http://hiv.lacounty.gov/Portals/HIV/Commission%20Meetings/2021/Packet/Pkt_EC_052721_rev3.pdf?ver=0A0ZBddJu_notnu1mCYE4A%3d%3d)

**CALL TO ORDER-INTRODUCTIONS-CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

- Bridget Gordon and David Lee, Co-Chairs, called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm. D. Lee reviewed housekeeping reminders and Code of Conduct.
- Committee members introduced themselves and stated their HIV care and/or prevention conflicts of interest.
- A request was made to adjourn the meeting in memory of all armed forces living with HIV.

## **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 Executive 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:**

- Kevin Donnelly, Commission member, expressed concerns regarding the rise in STDs to include syphilis which has not seen the numbers we are seeing now since the 1980s and impressed upon the Committee that there is a lot to do to address the STD crisis.
- Damone Thomas, community member, expressed concerns regarding the May 24, 2021 Black African American Community (BAAC) Task Force meeting and indicated that he sent an email to Commission staff communicating those concerns and also requested that the Committee take immediate action to address the behaviors that were exhibited during the May 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## **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 new items.

## **IV. REPORTS**

### **5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT**

#### **A. Commission/County Operational Updates**

- Cheryl Barrit, Executive Director, thanked the COH Co-Chairs for their hard work in encouraging members to actively participate in the recent HealthHIV survey assessment of the Commission's effectiveness as a planning council.
- C. Barrit introduced the Commission's new staff, Jose Rangel-Garibay, Health Programs Analyst I and shared that J. Rangel-Garibay will be the assigned staff leading the Standards and Best Practices (SBP) Committee and assisting with Ending the HIV Epidemic (HIV) community engagement efforts.

#### **B. Commission and Committee Activities**

- 2021 Work Plan
  - C. Barrit highlighted items #2 and #3, respectively, and reminded the Committee that the HealthHIV final report of its assessment findings is forthcoming and will be provided to the Committee for next steps and implementation.
  - Regarding #3, C. Barrit reminded the Committee of the COH EHE Steering Committee liaisons and that they will be providing ongoing updates and working with the various Committees on EHE efforts.

## 6. CO-CHAIR REPORT

### A. "So You Want to Talk About Race?" Book Reading Activity.

- B. Gordon read excerpts from Chapters 4-5.
- Reading Activity Goals, Objectives, and Process | REVISIT **MOTION #3 (✓ Passed by Consensus)**
  - A discussion ensued concerning shortening the reading activity by identifying in advance, brief excerpts for reading and conducting a 5-minute debrief following each reading to create a more interactive and meaningful process to ensure that the goal of increasing the Commission's capacity to engage in thoughtful and respectful discourse around matters of race is accomplished.
  - Concerns were also expressed that the reading activity along with other lengthy presentations interfered with moving important Commission business forward and it was suggested that the reading activity, the subsequent Human Relations Commission training and other presentations be agendized after standing Committee reports to allow sufficient time to conduct Commission business.
  - ➔ A motion was brought forward to:
    - shorten the reading activity by identifying brief excerpts of each assigned chapter in advance,
    - allow for a 5-minute debrief after each reading activity, and
    - agendize the reading activity, the Human Relations Commission training and any appropriate presentations following the Commission standing reports and important Commission business.

### B. Methods and Leading Practices for Advancing Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through Government | Request for Information (RFI) Due July 6, 2021

- The Biden Administration (Administration) is requesting feedback from the community at large on how to address inequities and social determinants of health within federally funded programs, agencies and organizations and has opened a RFI period to July 6, 2021 for comments and feedback.
- NMAC recently released an email communication inviting the community to provide feedback on reducing red tape and maximizing the Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) in underserved communities.
- Mario J. Pérez, Director, Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP), noted that the Commission should consider joining the [Stronger Together Partnership \(STP\)](https://ilhe.org/stronger-together-partnership-stp/) initiative in releasing a national statement in response to the RFI. STP is partnership comprised of various local organizations, to include NMAC, joining forces to address the challenges and opportunities posed by COVID-19 and take advantage of existing strengths and resources to continue addressing health inequities among their constituents. M. Pérez encouraged members to check out the STP website at <https://ilhe.org/stronger-together-partnership-stp/> and their list of ten recommendations addressing health inequities that will soon be developed and submitted to the Administration.
- ➔ Committee agreed by consensus to respond to the RFI and be a leading voice. C. Barrit will draft the letter for the Committee's review.

**C. Proposed Rule Change to Ryan White Program 75/25 Waiver**

- [Positive Women's Network \(PWN\)](#) is rallying the community in bringing awareness and soliciting public comment to the Administration's proposed rule change to the Ryan White Program 75/25 waiver which essentially would simplify the process for Ryan White Part A, B, and C recipients to request a waiver of the core medical services expenditure amount requirement by replacing the current waiver forms with a one-page form to reduce the duplicative information.
- ➔ Committee agreed by consensus to submit public comment via the PWN in supporting the rule change; C. Barrit to submit on behalf of the Commission.

**D. May 13, 2021 COH Meeting | FOLLOW UP + FEEDBACK**

**(1) HealthHIV/COH Effectiveness Assessment Survey Findings**

- B. Gordon announced that the HealthHIV reported an 80% response rate to the COH planning council effectiveness survey and thanked all who participated.
- Next steps will include reviewing the final report once released by HealthHIV and Commission staff conferring with the Committee to develop a process in addressing the findings and implementation.
- ➔ HealthHIV's final report of its findings is expected to be released on or around the end of June 2021; Commission staff will follow up to confirm.

**(2) Update on HIV and STD Surveillance in Los Angeles County | ACTION STEPS**

- Feedback was solicited in response to the 2020-2021 HIV/STD surveillance presentation by Andrea Kim, PhD (DHSP) at the May 13, 2021 Commission meeting.
- M. Pérez expressed concern in the rising STD rates and referenced the 113 reported congenital syphilis cases and four perinatal HIV cases reported last year (2020).
- Katja Nelson, Public Policy (PP) Committee, Co-Chair, inquired when is the right time to reach out to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and/or the Department of Public Health (DPH) to resurrect the conversation around the STD crisis. K. Nelson noted that while the data speaks for itself, there are no new investments allocated to public health infrastructure in Governor Gavin Newsome's May Revise.
- M. Pérez referred to Governor Newsome's \$3 million allocation to identify the public health system's long-term needs and assess lessons learned from the coronavirus pandemic, however, stressed that more investment is needed to allocate toward the public health infrastructure. M. Pérez further noted that an ongoing \$200 million investment was requested by National Association of County Health Officials (NACCHO) for public health infrastructure yet was rejected. Additionally, M. Pérez reported that a \$1.13 billion national investment will be allocated over a period of five years to support the response to STD crisis by way of STD grants = \$200 million investment distributed per year = \$6 million to Los Angeles County per year; however, use of funds will be determined by the LA County Department of Public Health.
- M. Pérez appealed to the Commission to focus on strengthening the Ryan White Program as most people living with HIV rely on Medicare, RWP and HOPWA – invest energy where there will be the greatest impact.
- ➔ Committee agreed by consensus to draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors to secure its commitment in addressing the STD crisis to include identifying resources and allocating investments. A request for adequate DHSP staffing will be incorporated into the letter.

- K. Nelson offered to work with the COH Co-Chairs to develop concrete items to address via public comment at an upcoming BOS meeting to mobilize the community's response to the STD crisis.
- B. Gordon will coordinate talking points for consumers to provide public comment at the June 8, 2021 BOS meeting.

**(3) Meeting Management: Extended meetings, priority of agenda/discussion items, and other meeting management concerns**

- The Committee agreed by consensus to:
  - defer the reading activity to July 2021 to accommodate the 90-minute Implicit Bias training at the June COH meeting
  - move reading activity on subsequent agendas after standing reports
  - B. Gordon volunteered to identify and read brief excerpts of assigned chapters of the reading activity at the COH meetings, followed by a 5-minute follow up discussion/debrief.

**F. Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Steering Committee COH Liaison Report | UPDATES**

- B. Gordon announced that the next DHSP EHE Steering Committee will take place on June 25 @ 1-3pm

**G. Black African American Community (BAAC) Task Force | REVISIT**

- B. Gordon shared that there have been ongoing concerns with behaviors exhibited during the BAAC Task Force meetings which have recently caused BAAC Task Force Co-Chair, Danielle Campbell, to resign.
- Community members expressed their discontentment and concerns with the disruptive and disrespectful outbursts and comments made by community members which have been characterized as abusive toward women and COH staff.
- D. Campbell expressed that the disruptions made by a few have stunted the BAAC Task Force's progress and undermined decisions made by the BAAC Task Force as a collective.
- B. Gordon reminded the Committee that the BAAC Task Force completed its directives to develop recommendations on how the Commission and DHSP can better meet the needs of the African American/Black community in addressing the health inequities that continue to place AA/Black people with the worse health and HIV/STD outcomes. The BAAC Task Force was extended for an additional year to complete a subsequent directive to provide guidance to Committees and DHSP on how to implement the recommendations; however, those efforts were thwarted due to refusal by BAAC Co-Chair, Greg Wilson to move forward with that guidance.
- M. Pérez reminded the Committee that it is DHSP's responsibility, as the Ryan White Program grantee, to ensure the Commission is a productive planning body and offered that DHSP will be ready to reengage the BAAC Task Force in addressing its recommendations when they are ready.
- B. Gordon encouraged members to request the recording from COH staff of the May 24, 2021 BAAC Task Force meeting for additional context, although cautioned that the recording is only a snapshot of what has transpired during the last year and a half.
- An initial motion was recommended to dissolve the BAAC Task Force, however, subsequent language was recommended by M. Pérez to temporarily suspend the BAAC Task Force for 90 days until a new meeting framework and leadership structure is developed that guarantees constructive and respectful engagement and outlines a clear consequence cycle for persons who do not adhere to the rules of engagement.

- Committee agreed by consensus that this discussion be continued at the June 24, 2021 Executive Committee meeting to provide sufficient time for a more in depth and well-informed conversation and an opportunity for members to review the May 24, 2021 BAAC Task Force meeting recording ahead of any decision made on the future of the BAAC Task Force.

**7. DIVISION OF HIV AND STD PROGRAMS (DHSP) REPORT** *Report postponed to June meeting.*

**A. Fiscal, Programmatic, and Procurement Updates**

**B. Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Activities**

**8. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Operations Committee**

- (1) Membership Management
  - New Member Applications
    - **MOTION #4** Approve recommendation for New Member Applicant, Rene Vega, to occupy Alternate #19 seat, and forward to June Commission meeting for approval, as presented or revised. (✓ Passed by Roll Call/Majority Vote)
    - **MOTION #5** Approve recommendation for New Member Applicant, Damone Thomas, to occupy Alternate #22 seat, and forward to June Commission meeting for approval, as presented or revised. (✓ Passed by Roll Call/Majority Vote)
  - Membership Application Redevelopment. Revised membership application is still pending review by County Counsel.
- (2) Outreach, Retention and Community Engagement Strategies and Efforts. Operations Committee will join efforts with the Consumer Caucus to develop strategies in retaining consumers on the Commission.

**B. Planning, Priorities, and Allocations (PP&A) Committee** *Report postponed to June meeting.*

- (1) Ryan White Program Year 31 (FY 2021) Revised Allocation **MOTION #6**
- (2) Prevention Planning Activities

**C. Standards and Best Practices (SBP) Committee** *Report postponed to June meeting.*

- (1) Childcare Service Standards **MOTION #7**
- (2) 2021 Service Standards | REVIEW

**D. Public Policy Committee** *Report postponed to June meeting.*

- (1) County, State, and Federal Policy and Legislation
  - 2021 Legislative Docket **MOTION #8**
- (2) County, State and Federal Budget

**9. CAUCUS, TASK FORCE, AND WORK GROUP REPORTS** *Reports postponed to June meeting.*

- A. Aging Task Force | June 1, 2021 @ 1-3pm
- B. Black/African American Community (BAAC) Task Force | June 28, 2021 @ 1-3pm
- C. Consumer Caucus | June 10, 2021 @ 3-4:30pm
- D. Prevention Planning Workgroup | June 23, 2021 @ 5:30-7PM
- E. Transgender Caucus | July 27, 2021 @ 10am-12pm
- F. Women's Caucus | June 21, 2021 @ 2-4pm

**V. NEXT STEPS**

**10. TASK/ASSIGNMENTS RECAP**

- Refer to foregoing action items in red.

**11. AGENDA DEVELOPMENT FOR NEXT MEETING**

- Items postponed to June 24, 2021 meeting
- COH Response to RFI Re: Methods and Leading Practices for Advancing Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through Government Request for Information
- COH Letter to BOS Re: STD Crisis
- BAAC Task Force

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**12. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

**VII. ADJOURNMENT**

**13. ADJOURNMENT. *Adjourn in memory of all armed forces living with HIV.***

APPROVED