



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.



**PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

February 1, 2021

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
Lee Kochems, MA, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Eduardo Martinez (<i>Alt.</i>)	Jennifer Gjurashaj	Cheryl Barrit, MPIA
Katja Nelson, MPP, <i>Co-Chair</i>	Nestor Kamurigi (<i>Alt.</i>)	Tim Nierengarten	Carolyn Echols-Watson, MPA
Alasdair Burton, (<i>Alt.</i>)	Martin Sattah, MD	Judi Ross	Catherine Lapointe
Jerry D. Gates, PhD	Tony Spears (<i>Alt.</i>)	Peter Soto	Jane Nachazel-Ruck
Ricky Rosales			Abdul-Malik Ogunlade
		DPH/DHSP STAFF	Sonja Wright, MS, Lac
		None	

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

CONTENTS OF COMMITTEE PACKET

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- 4) **PowerPoint:** Wellbeing Center Program, 2021
- 5) **PowerPoint:** Los Angeles County's Methamphetamine Task Force, 1/19/2021
- 6) **Table:** 2021 Work Plan – Public Policy, *Draft* 2/1/2021
- 7) **Priorities:** 2021 Policy Priorities, 2/1/2021
- 8) **PowerPoint:** 2021-2022 Legislative Docket, *Draft* 2/1/2021
- 9) **Bill:** Assembly Bill 4, Med-Cal: eligibility, 12/7/2020
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- 11) **Bill:** Senate Bill 17, Public health crisis: racism, 12/7/2020
- 12) **Bill:** Senate Bill 56, Medi-Cal: eligibility, 12/7/2020
- 13) **Bill:** Senate Bill 57, Controlled substances: overdose prevention program, 12/7/2020
- 14) **Executive Summary:** Los Angeles County, Governor's FY 2021-22 Proposed Budget, Executive Summary, 1/8/2021
- 15) **Fact Sheet:** COVID-19: Considerations for People with HIV, 12/22/2020

CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND CHECK-IN, CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS: Ms. Nelson welcomed all and called the meeting to order at 1:06 pm. Attendees introduced themselves.

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 1/4/2021 Public Policy Committee Meeting Minutes, as presented (*Postponed*).

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 and Caucus Updates

- Ms. Barrit noted Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) PowerPoints on the Wellbeing Center Program and the Methamphetamine Task Force in the packet from the last Planning, Priorities and Allocations (PP&A) Committee Meeting. PP&A also heard from Lello Tesema, MD on the six SAPC-funded Needle Exchange Programs (NEPs).
- PP&A asked for an update on Student Wellness Centers regarding provision of HIV testing and PrEP. They work with Planned Parenthood and some of those sites do offer prescriptions for PrEP, but COVID-19 has delayed implementation of some programs due to the current virtual nature of services.
- Community pressure provided impetus for SAPC to launch the Methamphetamine Task Force. It has a Prevention and a Treatment Committee. Sonali Kulkarni, MD, MPH, Medical Director, DHSP, represents DHSP on the latter. Data shows an ongoing increase in Los Angeles County (LAC) methamphetamine use. It may inform Policy Priorities and the Docket.
- NEP capacity varies at the six sites to perform education, provision of clean supplies, harm reduction, treatment, and, Hepatitis C and HIV testing. Sites refer clients to other partners if they lack a needed service.
- SAPC was working to monitor the state approved safe consumption sites that the commission supported last year. Public Policy may want to support activity to extend that program to LAC.
- Information on complementary programs can help inform Policy Priorities, the Legislative Docket, and community engagement. Public Policy is working with The Wall Las Memorias on community engagement for methamphetamine.
- Ms. Barrit added PP&A was inviting the full Commission and all Caucuses to consider participation on its Prevention Planning Work Group. The group is meant to be the lead in better integrating prevention into the Commission's Priority Setting and Resource Allocations (PSRA) process. The first meeting has not yet been scheduled.
- Standards and Best Practices (SBP) was scheduled to meet 2/2/2021 at 10:00 am. It was expected to finalize the Universal Standards of Care (SOC) to move to the Executive Committee and then, if approved, to the Commission.
- SBP was just beginning a project to engage private health plans and providers in HIV prevention and care. The goal is to develop recommendations on better coordinating health care, and HIV and STD testing services across platforms.
- The Operations and Executive Committees met 1/28/2021. They are working with HealthHIV, a national organization, to do an effectiveness assessment of the Commission. HealthHIV staff will present at the 2/11/2021 Commission Meeting to inform Commissioners about the assessment surveys and expectations for participation.
- The Operations and Executive Committees also heard from LAC Human Relations Commission staff on training, coaching, skills building, and other Technical Assistance (TA) options to help Commissioners address systemic racism in the body's work, its commitment as an anti-racist organization, and conflict mediation. Human Relations Commission staff was also invited to the 2/11/2021 Commission Meeting to hear feedback on ways to engage the body in training and integrating the work into the meeting. It is anticipated that the Commission will work with the Human Relations Commission for the next several years. Ms. Gordon will also present her own recommendations.
- Mr. Rosales commented it felt weird to recreate the Prevention Planning Committee after years of hard work to integrate the body. Mr. Kochems agreed it felt odd to break out prevention. The Public Policy Committee's Policy Priorities tries to maintain a broader context and he wanted to encourage that across the board as opposed to separating prevention out again. The Commission worked a decade on developing a comprehensive, holistic view. Mr. Rosales said the process was restarted several times. The whole point of integration was to work on these together.

- He asked who SAPC was talking with regarding safe consumption sites since he had found no appetite for that intervention among elected officials. It took 20 years just to sell the idea of needle exchange. To sell elected officials on “helping people use drugs,” as they will characterize it, at a time when the City of Los Angeles budget was already heavily impacted by COVID-19 makes the probability of success in the near future remote.
- Ms. Nelson noted the Board of Supervisors (Board) had a motion on their agenda last week to support Senate Bill 57, Controlled substances: overdose prevention program, which includes safe consumption sites.
- ➡ Ms. Barrit will relay Messrs. Rosales and Kochems caution on separating prevention and care deliberations to PP&A.
- ➡ Mr. Rosales knows Dr. Tesema and checks in with her periodically. He has not done so lately, but will follow-up.
- ➡ Ms. Nelson announced The Wall Las Memorias was planning a half-day Act Now Against Meth event on 3/9/2021.

6. CO-CHAIR REPORT

a. 2021 Work Plan

- Ms. Nelson reviewed the eight-point Work Plan in the packet and completion dates were identified.
- She suggested we might want to have a general task around harm reduction. Also, while we have called out BAAC recommendations, we may want to call out other populations to at least monitor, e.g., women, trans, and indigenous. Ms. Echols-Watson noted there were also activities associated with other populations that could be elevated.
- Mr. Kochems suggested topics to monitor could be placed under Item 1 and then moved if an activity developed. An asterisk calling special attention to addressing the meth epidemic and harm reduction services could go under 3 and 4.
- Mr. Rosales suggested consolidating items on plans, e.g., Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) and End The Epidemics (ETE).
- ➡ Target Completion Dates were assigned, as follows: 1, Review Policy Priorities for 2021, 4/2021; 2, Develop 2021 Legislative Docket, 5/2021; 3, Monitor Federal plan, Ending the HIV Epidemic: A Plan for America, Ongoing; 4, Track End the Epidemics (Statewide HIV, STD, Hep C initiative), Ongoing; 5, STD Motion Follow-Up, COVID-19 dependent; 6, Assess State HIV and STD policy and budget, 6/2021; 7, Assess federal policy and budget, 6/2021; 8, Align PPC efforts with Black/African American Community (BAAC) Task Force recommendations, Ongoing.
- ➡ Item 5: Revise description to reflect Public Policy was working with the Executive Committee on the STD Board Letter.
- ➡ Generate one item to reflect and monitor all the plans including EHE and ETE with an emphasis on coordination.
- ➡ The Co-Chairs, Ms. Barrit, and Ms. Echols-Watson will update the draft, distribute it to the Committee for feedback, and bring the iteration revised with feedback to the next meeting.

b. Act Now Against Meth (ANAM) Update: There was no additional discussion

c. Review of Policy Priorities

- Ms. Echols-Watson updated the document and incorporated LAC policy language.
- Mr. Kochems suggested adding an overarching statement on support for legislation, local policies, and regulations.
- Mr. Rosales felt the COVID-19 references sounded more generic than their actual impact which has changed our lives, how we do things, and the need to determine how to improve continued access to services. COVID-19 has forced everyone to rethink how to do everything while the situation was unfolding. That should be acknowledged as well as the fact that we need to be aware and continue to adapt as needed.
- Mr. Kochems would like to insert in some way that, as COVID-19 becomes institutionalized as HIV has become, the vaccine research and development procedure should be co-opted to address HIV. Mr. Burton noted the technique used to develop COVID-19 vaccines was facilitated by prior unsuccessful research on HIV. The COVID-19 spike protein is easier to map in order to develop the mRNA vaccine than is any part of HIV. He did not want to suggest mirroring the mRNA technique to the detriment of something effective nor to disrespect HIV work done, albeit unsuccessful.
- Mr. Kochems did not want to highlight a specific technology, but an aspirational policy statement that acknowledges resources devoted to COVID-19 proved a pandemic can be addressed rather than allowing a chronic illness to linger.
- The limitations of healthcare highlighted by COVID-19, especially for PLWH, raises awareness for universal healthcare.
- Mr. Rosales stressed that the response to HIV should be as enthusiastic and robust as that for COVID-19.
- Ms. Nachazel-Ruck noted funding was pulled from many research projects for COVID-19 so competition will be fierce.
- ➡ Introduction, Sentence 3: Insert after “...its commitment to *eradication and cure of HIV Disease*,... ”
- ➡ Introduction: Add overarching principle of policy and advocacy on the impact of COVID-19 and incorporate document wide. COVID-19 has essentially changed the way we live our lives so what have we learned from this collective global experience can be used to advance the quality of life and the cure for HIV.
- ➡ Revise heading for “Systematic Racism” to “*Systemic Racism*.”

- Systemic Racism, b., Sentence 2: Insert after "...rooting out of... ."
- Prevention: Consider incorporating care into language to foster an integrated approach, e.g., treatment as prevention.
- Add, perhaps under Service Delivery, b.: "Use innovations developed in response to COVID-19 to enable development of vaccines to eradicate HIV." Here, "innovations," refers to all innovations including, but not limited to, vaccines.
- Staff will revise the 2021 Policy Priorities, per the discussion, and distribute to the Committee for feedback. Staff will include the 2020 Policy Priorities for comparison.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

7. LEGISLATIVE DOCKET

- Mr. Rosales highlighted that SB 57 language focuses on overdose prevention and harm reduction to better address opposition that often arises from language like "safe injection site."
- Ms. Nelson noted more bills will be added to the Docket over time. For example, APLA Health is co-sponsoring SB 110, which grew out of last year's SB 888, the Recovery Incentives Act on Substance Use Disorder services, contingency management services, which makes Medi-Cal reimburse those interventions. APLA Health is also co-sponsoring SB 258, Aging, which pertains to PLWH as qualifying under California law which defines "greatest social need."
- **AB 4** (and similar companion bill) **SB 56**: Medi-Cal: eligibility: Extend eligibility regardless of immigration status. **SUPPORT.**
- **AB 32**: Telehealth: Ms. Nelson will check on organizations in support of maintaining service option. **SUPPORT.**
- **SB 17**: Public health crisis: racism. **SUPPORT.**
- **SB 57**: Controlled Substances: Overdose Prevention Program. Bill includes language on offering HIV and HCV education though there were efforts to strengthen that. Board has voted support. **SUPPORT (Rosales Abstain).**
- Ms. Nelson will forward a fact sheet on SB 110 to staff for distribution. Co-sponsors are: APLA Health, California Association of Alcohol and Drug Program Executives, Equality California, HealthRIGHT 360, and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. No opponents were identified to date.

8. STATE POLICY AND BUDGET UPDATE

- Ms. Nelson will report on the Master Plan for Aging at the Commission's Aging Task Force Meeting on 2/2/2021.
- Ms. Nelson will report on the ETE budget asks at the next Committee meeting.

9. FEDERAL POLICY UPDATE

- President Joseph Biden is signing multiple Executive Orders. Most are to reverse the former President's Executive Orders.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released a publication stating that one in five people in the United States have a Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI). That statistic highlights the current LAC crisis.

10. COUNTY POLICY UPDATE

a. Transgender Wellness and Equity Fund Letter of Support

- Ms. Barrit noted prior discussion on generating a letter, but suggested working with the Transgender Caucus as lead.
- Add the proposed letter to the Board and other elected officials to the 2/23/2021, 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, Transgender Caucus Meeting Agenda. The Caucus will discuss whether it chooses to lead or identify another body.

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:** Mr. Rosales announced that the City of Los Angeles, Department on Disability, HIV Prevention Request For Proposals was released. Go to labvn.org for information.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

14. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.