

ALAMEDA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
MEETING OF March 09<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
**MINUTES**



**The mission of the Public Health Commission** shall be to review and assess emerging health needs; initiate and improve health and disease prevention programs and policies; make recommendations regarding opportunities for building community capacity as related to public health priorities; and advocate for adequate resources and increased County action to improve community health.

Attendance Record (P = Present, A = Absent)

Dist . #	Member Name	Term Exp.	01/12 /23	02/09/ 23	03/09/2 3	04/13/2 3	05/11/ 23	06/08/2 3	07/13/2 3	08/10/2 3
1	Hurst, David	07/01/24	A	P	P					
1	Narayan, Rajiv	01/30/25	A	A	P					
2	Castillo, Nestor	12/07/24	P	P	P					
2	Sahi, J	11/19/23	P	P	P					
2	Bhaiji, Ammar	10/7/23	A	P	A					
3	Boller, Gerg	01/29/23	A	A	A					
3	Varela, Rebekah	04/21/24	A	P	P					
4	Harper, Zhonnet	07/02/24	P	A	P					
4	Howard, Gary	11/28/23	P	P	P					
5	De La Pena Medina, Mitzy	03/23/23	P	A	P					
5	Budge, Jason	01/9/24	A	P	A					
5	Temple Perry, Koren	10/26/23	A	A	P					
At-Large	Van Cleve, Juliana	9/19/24	P	P	P					

At-Lar ge	Chowdhury , Mifta	9/13/23	P	P	P					
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**Staff:**

- Kimi Watkins-Tartt, Alameda County Public Health Department, Director
- Evette Brandon, Alameda County Public Health Department, QIA Director
- Jessica Amen, Alameda County Public Health Department, PHC Staff Support
- Zandra Washington, Alameda County Public Health Department
- Linda Franklin, Alameda County Public Health Department

**Public:** N/A

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**CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME**

- Chair Castillo calls the meeting of the Alameda Public Health Commission to order.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

- N/A

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Motion made by Vice chair De La Pena Medina
- Seconded by Commissioner Varela.

**BROWN ACT VOTE**

- Motion made by Commissioner Castillo
- Seconded by Commissioner Hurst

**STAFF REPORT**

Jessica Amen, Support Staff

We were joined today by a new commissioner from District 1 who introduced himself.

Row call by support staff.

The new Brown Act requires commissioners to participate remotely twice a year. Specialists planning to participate virtually must notify support staff in advance.

Quorum: The Public Health Committee will meet in person; other subcommittees will hold virtual meetings. Meetings must have a quorum of 9 members present.

A quorum (defined as 50% of the membership plus one) must also be present in a singular location for a meeting to be considered valid.

All Public Health Board meetings will be held in the Redwood Room of the Alameda County Public Health Building.

Chair Castillo suggested that each commissioner from a different region meet with the board of supervisor’s staff to schedule a meeting so they would know who their district staff is.

Chair Castillo should be reminded about onboarding binders for the new commissioner's commission materials.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Director Watkins-Tartt is open for commissioners to ask questions related to COVID-19 about the emergency declaration expiring.

### **Department Update**

The Director's Watkins-Tartt presentation was largely focused on the pandemic lesson learned on the infrastructure gaps she saw during the pandemic, which she saw fairly quickly. She said that as soon as the numbers began to rise, they were able to identify the vulnerabilities, and she knew that many lives were saved in Alameda County. There are still many gaps and issues to be resolved.

The director provided an overview of two funding sources received from the Public Health department. One of which is a short-term funding source. The second funding source is the California Department of Public Health, a new long-term funding source. The annual budget of \$6 million will be used primarily to increase ACPHD's staffing capacity. During the pandemic, this idea was one of the areas where the department felt the most pressure. As a result, it was a large number of people from specific disciplines. The directors discuss how the CDC hasn't given infrastructure data much attention in the past five years. The majority of that money, if not all of them because they are temporary, will be used primarily for modernization, workforce development, and the creation of new systems, procedures, and practices, as well as training programs specifically for us.

Directors also talk about how to improve communication between our team. There was a big gap throughout the entire health organization. Public information officers were solely employed by the Public Health Department for a long time. Some of the money will be used to give our communication team extra warmth and strength since the organization just recently appointed a communications director. At the Board of Supervisor Health Committee meeting, the director thanked the commissioner for their presentation. She also remarked that the commissioner did a fantastic job at the show and that it was highly welcomed. The director also talked about how the Behavioral Health Wellness Pavilion was able to provide all the tools and resources for the Black Joy Parade. They distributed test kits along with other items.

The director also talked about the other update, which is related to the Alameda County SP 1000 Ej Element. The state and jurisdiction are now required to include an environmental justice element in the general plan, and PHC got involved with the community development agency very early on to try to determine when Alameda County was going to begin its process. They received a presentation from the planning department, which focused on recommendations for healthcare. An umbrella term for public health, behavioral health, and environmental health. As a result, they presented to our health care services agency's executive committee, and our deputies and other senior leaders were able to provide feedback.

The director recalled that when Dr. Ramos, the Virgin General, visited, they were able to tour several regional health agencies across the State, with Alameda County Public Health being one of the first stops. Dr. Ramos was curious to find out more about the work being done in the fields of maternity and child health as well as adolescent work in a range of contexts, such as youth and behavioral health. She could see all that was happening at HCSA in one glance. So, for the sake of public health, we're highlighting our work on maternal, child, and adolescent health (MPCA). The work that is done in that unit in terms of the maternal, paternal child, and adolescent health, as well as everything else. Also, the behavioral health division was shown to Dr. Ramos, who was particularly interested in learning about all of their work with transitional-age children. Healthy Schools and Communities was the other program she visited. They discussed all of their school-based mental health professionals as well as the work being done at Reach, which we had to side-visit at one of the youth centers. The most recent program she observed that she took part in was the Youth Action Board, which is a part of the office of homeless care and coordination. They're a great bunch of young people doing some

excellent work, and it's focused on youth and homelessness. With a background in maternity and neonatal health, the Surgeon General was very attentive and knowledgeable about a variety of topics. After completing the community health assessment with the Hospital Council and having only had recovery with the entire hospital system, the director's next step is to share the full territory with the PHC. The directors think that Alameda County would benefit greatly from this opportunity to align with financing, investment, and a line priority so that they can have a little more of an influence in some areas that they can do more about it. On the same line, East County: They were approached by the cities of Tri-Valleys, Dublin, Livermore, and Pleasanton following the county's recent assessment. Alameda County was invited to be a part of its steering committee. Director Watkins-Tartt is the primary representative, but Evette and Carolina from the Quality and Accreditation department were also invited because they wanted to ensure connectivity.

The directors mentioned a new grant opportunity and a new program; one is a grant with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, and it's a regional project; we still need to receive final funding approval, but the project, called Oakland Housing Moves, has already passed the first hurdle and been given funding approval. Over two years, it will enable residents of 13 affordable housing sites in Oakland to charter and use safe walking and bike routes from where they live to another healthy place for activity or eating. The second award, from the California Department of Public Health, supports California's efforts to prevent youth suicide. They sought out nations with rising and higher suicide rates, which, regrettably, included Alameda County. They got in touch to ask whether we'd be interested in starting a pilot to broaden what we're doing in Alameda County to increase prevention and surveillance around juvenile suicide. According to director Watkin-Tate, most young people in Alameda County commit suicide between the ages of 20 and 24.

## **LEADERSHIP REPORT**

- Health Equities in All Policies.
- Communications and Community
- Nominations Committee
- Ad-Hoc Committee
- Oral Health Committee

## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- **Medi-Cal Ad Hoc Committee:** Commissioner Hurst is preparing a presentation on both the redetermination effort and the medical expansion, interested commissioner members can learn more about some of the activities that are taking place, how many people will be affected, and what efforts are being made at the community level to mitigate any loss of coverage or people falling through the cracks.
- **Nominations:** Commissioner Hurst is in contact with the vice chair to discuss opportunities to promote the vacancies. The commission currently has 8/9 vacancies. They want to make sure that word gets out to the communities at large within the districts, but they also want to understand the population and ensure that those underserved communities have representation at the table. Commissioner Harper will be joining this committee, which will strengthen it.
- **Oral Health:** No updates
- **Health Equities in All Policies:** Jessica Blakemore reached out and will give a policy update presentation to the Public Health Commission in April.
- **Communications and Community Outreach:** On February 15th, Commissioner Howard hosted a student workshop on health at the Cherryland Community Center. They had good provider attendance, but community attendance was probably modest, with about 55 attendees. The interactions with the providers were fantastic; they were incredibly enthusiastic and happy.

**Strategic Planning Retreat:** On March 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am-1:00 pm at the Alameda County Public Health Building Redwood room

**GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:** No general announcements.  
**ADJOURN**

If you would like to RSVP for the next meeting, please do so at [phcommission@gmail.com](mailto:phcommission@gmail.com).  
Please visit the Public Health Commission blog at <http://acphc.wordpress.com/> for information on how to become a member, bylaws, meeting schedules, and more.