

ALAMEDA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING OF February 10th, 2022

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.	7/8/21	8/12/21	9/9/21	10/14/21	11/18/21	1/13/22	2/10/22
1	Evan Branning	01/29/23	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
1	David Hurst	06/30/22	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
2	Nestor Castillo	12/06/22	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
2	Jatinderpal Sahi	11/19/23		P	P	P	P	P	P
3	David Ralston	04/20/22	A	A	A	A	P	A	A
3	Greg Boller	01/29/23	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
3	Carolyn Bolton	02/10/22	A	A	A	P	P	P	P
4	Zhonnet Harper	07/01/22	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
4	Gary Howard	11/28/23		P	P	P	P	P	P
5	Helene Hoenig	01/26/23	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
5	Mitzy De La Pena Medina	3/23/23					P	P	P
At-Large	Joseph Engeda	12/18/22	A	P	P	A	P	P	P
At-Large	David Morris	09/14/23	A	P	P	P	P	A	A

Staff:

- Kimi Watkins-Tartt, Alameda County Public Health Department, Director
- George Ayala, Alameda County Public Health Department, Deputy Director

- Leah Fortin, Alameda County Public Health Department, QIA Administration and PHC Staff Support

Public:

- Jot Pandher Benipal
- Ms. Duma
- Mr. Kashif

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

- Chair Castillo calls the meeting to order and allows all attendees to introduce themselves.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- N/A

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Motion made by Commissioner Branning and seconded by Commissioner Sahi to approve the January 2022 meeting minutes. The motion passes with one abstention.

STAFF REPORT

- Leah Fortin informs the commission of current vacancies on the roster. Currently, there are two vacancies in District 1, 4 and 5, one vacancy in District 3, and three vacancies in the at-large position.
- Commissioner Branning and Vice Chair Harper inform the commission of potential applicants

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Director Watkins-Tartt shares that in honor of Black History Month, Amanda Gorman, a poet, is being featured by the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency and the Public Health Department
- There has been a rapid decrease in COVID-19 daily case rate
- Data shows that case rates amongst unvaccinated individuals are significantly higher than in fully vaccinated individuals
- Effective 2/16/22 state mask policy will include changes such as fully vaccinated individuals not being required to mask in most indoor public settings but unvaccinated still must mask
- In addition, masking will still be required in public transit, health care settings, certain congregate settings, K-12 schools, and childcare settings
- Masks are still recommended for all and upgraded masks are recommended for best protection
- Post-Omicron variant efforts include sustaining an ongoing support for vaccination, testing, mask access, educational outreach, resource and care navigation, case and outbreak investigations focused on high-risk settings, and surveillance for waves and severe disease
- Current COVID-19 investigation priorities include those ages 65 and older, early learning facilities for children 5 and under, long term care facilities, corrections, and shelters especially in priority zip codes
- The vaccination effort focus is prioritizing the unvaccinated, pediatric vaccinations, vaccination access to those that are homebound, and increasing booster administration
- Boosters are highly encouraged for those ages 12 and older
- Generally, there is an ongoing effort to promote vaccination and boosters, upgrading of masks, testing early for symptoms especially before and after high-risk events, staying home if sick, and improving indoor ventilation and air-filtration
- With an increase of testing sites, the public has grown concerns regarding legitimacy and safety of sites therefore, the ACPHD website provides a detailed list of sites that follow safe, ethical, and legal guidelines
- It is recommended that masks are upgraded from cloth masks to masks that provide better protection such as surgical masks, KF94/KN95 masks, and N95 masks that are well-fitted

- Other department highlights include work in expanding healthy retail for small businesses in unincorporated Alameda County
- A new Narcan program was developed in partnership with Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless in order for clinicians in Alameda County to receive better training
- A new case management system with connections to Social and Health Information Exchange (SHIE) will be implemented department wide to improve care coordination and case management
- Director Watkins-Tartt shows the commission a video relating to Perinatal Equity Delivering Birth Justice campaign
- Regarding work around violence prevention, initial priorities include policy advocacy, improving the quality of violence data, changing narratives, and scaling up the best and promising practices
- Some programs and services that prevent various types of violence across the Health Care Services Agency include the Center for Healthy Schools and Communities, Starting Strong Program, Women, Infants & Children (WIC), Asthma Start Program, Project New Start, Older Adult Services, wellness centers, and mobile crisis services
- The Alameda County Health Department is the only county in California participating in a national initiative called Resilience Catalyst which is funded by NACCHO and APHA to foster equity and address violence
- Analyzing adverse childhood and community experiences will serve as part of the foundation for work in preventing violence
- To address the effects that climate change has on public health, the county is partnering with GSA on revision of the AC Government Operations and Services Climate Action Plan (GOCAP), participating in the West Oakland AB 617 Community Emissions Reduction Plan implementation process, and supporting the development of AC Environmental Justice element to the county general plan update
- There is legislative work in process to request more funding for areas such as public health workforce capacity, workforce recruitment and retention, and workforce training and pipeline investments

LEADERSHIP REPORT

- Chair Castillo provides words of acknowledgement and encouragement to the commission especially amidst the pandemic where many challenges and setbacks were faced
- Chair Castillo is optimistic for the future and the great work that will be done
- Vice Chair Harper thanks all commissioners and Director Watkins-Tartt for the leadership, dedication, and participation during these difficult times
- Vice Chair Harper announces that BARHII will be facilitating the strategic planning retreat

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- Health Equity in All Policies (HEiAP)
 - Commissioner Engeda plans to connect with the legislative council
- Oral Health
 - The Oral Health Committee will be moving its regular meeting to the third Wednesdays of the month from 4:00-5:30pm
 - Commissioner Branning encourages other commissioners to attend future meetings in representation of the Public Health Commission Meeting
- Communications Committee
 - Vice Chair Harper informs the commission that there was a discussion to combine and merge subcommittees focused on communications, outreach, and media in order to avoid fragmentation and be more efficient and cohesive
 - Commissioner De La Pena Medina shares that strategies such as surveys and polls are being considered to better assess community health needs
 - There are plans to implement social media strategies, updates to the website, and more partnership with community-based organizations

- There are plans to invite the Public Information Officer to present to the commission to ensure that the commission's focuses are in alignment with the department's
- Medi-Cal Ad Hoc Committee
 - Commissioner Hurst is planning to work with Director Watkins-Tartt to establish a presentation about how the Public Health Department interacts with Medi-Cal programs
 - There are plans to engage with Alameda Alliance Health and the HEiAP committee to start working on solutions relating to health disparities
 - The Medi-Cal Ad Hoc committee meets the third Mondays of each month
- Nominations Committee
 - Commissioner Hurst would like to form a group to strategize about outreach in order to fill vacant seats on the commission
 - Commissioner Hurst encourages commissioners to recruit within their district
 - There are plans to develop an onboarding curriculum for new commissioners
- Community Outreach
 - N/A

RETREAT PLANNING

- Chair Castillo shares a draft agenda for the Strategic Planning Retreat that outlines the general schedule of items to be discussed
- A few items planned include: an icebreaker, discussion of the commission's historical and current structure, discussion of more specific goals for the commission, and breakout groups for subcommittees to discuss goals and objectives
- Commissioner Bolton suggests reaching out to each district's supervisor to attend the Strategic Planning Retreat and discuss bridging the communication gap
- The retreat is scheduled to take place on either the first or second Saturday of March
- Commissioner Hurst would like to plan a future meeting to better understand the legislative guidelines that apply to the commission and the Public Health Department in policy efforts
- Regarding strategies and structure for advisory bodies such as the Public Health Commission, Director Watkins-Tartt states that there is a staff in department working on this
- Director Watkins-Tartt states that there is work being done on a Community Health Needs Assessment and Leah Fortin will reach out to QIA staff to determine if a presentation can be planned
- Chair Castillo urges the commissioners to bring any items on the agenda they feel that are missing to his attention
- Vice Chair requests for subcommittees to meet before the retreat to discuss goals and objectives
- Staff is tasked with sending out a poll regarding the date of the retreat

MERGING OF COMMITTEES

- Vice Chair Harper explains that it would be most efficient to merge the Communications and the Community Outreach committee into one cohesive body since both bodies have similar goals
- Motion made by Commissioner Howard and seconded by Commissioner Hurst to approve the merging of the Communication and the Community Outreach committee into a single body. The motion passes unanimously.
- The newly formed Community Outreach and Communications Committee will meet the third Thursday of each month at 6:00pm

MATERIALS ASK

- Vice Chair Harper requests that the commission moves forward in the process of attaining materials to represent the commission such as signage and apparel in preparation for future events

- The commission will reach out to Black Joy Parade organizer to see if they are still accepting booth reservations, and if so, the Public Health Department will lend materials such as signage for the commission to borrow at the event
- Chair Castillo encourages commissioners to creatively contribute to the commission by creating logo designs to be placed on signage and apparel

AGENDA SETTING

- Retreat follow up
- Standing items
- Possible presentation from CBO as suggested by Commissioner De La Pena Medina

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Vice Chair Harper was accepted into the Center for Care Innovations and will be learning human-centered designs to strengthen her work in developing anti-racist interventions in cancer care settings

ADJOURN

- Meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted by: Phaplynn Phan

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting

March 10th, 2022

6 to 8 PM

Online via Zoom

If you would like to RSVP for the next meeting, please do so at 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 schedule and more.