

ALAMEDA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING OF May 12th, 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.	10/14/21	11/18/21	1/13/22	2/10/22	3/10/16	4/14/22	5/12/22
1	Evan Branning	01/29/23	A	P	P	P	A	A	A
1	David Hurst	06/30/22	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
1	Kashef Qaadri	12/06/22						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	A	P	P
3	Greg Boller	01/29/23	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
3	Carolyn Bolton	02/11/24	P	P	P	P	P	P	P
3	Njeri Gathuka	2/07/24						A	A
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	P
5	Helene Hoenig	01/26/23	P	A	P	P	A	A	P
5	Mitzy De La Pena Medina	3/23/23		P	P	P	P	P	A
At-Large	Joseph Engeda	12/18/22	A	P	P	P	A	P	P

Staff:

- Kimi Watkins-Tartt, Alameda County Public Health Department, Director

- George Ayala, Alameda County Public Health Department, Deputy Director
- Evette Brandon, Alameda County Public Health Department, QIA Director
- Leah Fortin, Alameda County Public Health Department, QIA and PHC Staff Support
- Neetu Balram, Alameda County Public Health Department, PIO

**Public:**

- N/A

**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 Howard and seconded by Commissioner Engeda to approve the April 2022 meeting minutes. The motion passes with one abstention.

**BROWN ACT VOTE**

- Motion made by Commissioner Hoenig and seconded by Commissioner Sahi to extend the continuance of virtual meetings into the month of June. The motion passes.

**STAFF REPORT**

- Leah Fortin informs the commission of current vacancies in each district:
  - D1: 1 vacancy
  - D2: 2 vacancies
  - D3: 0 vacancies
  - D4: 2 vacancies
  - D5: 2 vacancies
  - At Large: 3 vacancies
- The Oral Health Committee needs a commissioner to represent the PHC. The next meeting will be taking place on Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-5:30pm.
- The Community Advisory Group meeting will be held on June 14<sup>th</sup> to revisit and refresh the Alameda County Public Health Department’s COVID-19 strategic plan, the commission is invited to attend.
- An application to reserve the Trustees meeting room at the San Leandro Library has been submitted and we are now awaiting approval. The library does not provide A/V equipment therefore, meetings would be fully in-person.
- Staff is working to compile a list of alternative meeting spaces.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

- Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, for Alameda County the statistics show about 16 cases per 100,000 residents per day, about 6% overall test positivity, about 10,000 reported lab tests per day, 50 hospitalized cases and 5 ICU cases, and 289 deaths since January 1<sup>st</sup> of 2022.
- Efforts to provide vaccinations for children ages 6mos-4yrs are currently in progress and include county planning work such as education seminars, confirming all available resources for providers, preparing mobile vaccination providers to serve at pop-up clinics.
- Other updates involving vaccines for children ages 6mos-4yrs are that the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is offering resources to vaccinate at childcare and pediatric settings, the CDPH is determining what sites

will be state-funded, and the county is planning to partner with services/agencies that work with children in the most impacted areas

- Masks purchase update: 126K KN95 masks have been purchased in total. 100K of those are adult masks and 26K are children's mask. The masks will be available 2 days a week initially and then by appointment only thereafter in San Leandro.
- A distribution plan for the KN95 masks is in progress and the county plans to reach out to community-based organization partners.
- COVID Treatment updates: CDPH OptumServe Bus sites launching test to treat operations on May 4<sup>th</sup>, it will include a soft launch of 25 sites throughout the state and the other Optum sites will be active May 12<sup>th</sup>. The rollout in Alameda County is still pending.
- La Familia will soon be ready to offer treatment options and is in the stage of finalizing coordination of drug to site.
- WOHC is a possible testing/treatment partner for the future.
- COVID Division Call center is in progress to help connect COVID positive individuals to treatment options
- Listening sessions to discuss the distribution of ARPA funding for outreach, navigation and capacity development are being hosted by the county.
- The board has approved the final coalition of the 6 total to be included in the Unincorporated Area Coalition
- The COVID-19 strategic plan is being refreshed and updated with the help of community partners and public feedback.
- Continued work is being done towards violence prevention such as data collection and having conversations with community partners such as the Gender-based Violence Subcommittee of the Violence Prevention Coalition in Oakland and the Family Violence Center.
- The county collaborates with the providers involved in the domestic violence fatality review to better assess data relating to domestic violence to see if there are areas of concern, common trends or themes, etc.
- In light of the recent events concerning Roe v. Wade, Alameda County has taken a stance and put out statements to support birthing individual's rights to plan their families and to reproductive health services.
- HERO funds are permanent public health dollars that will be used towards the county's infrastructure and HR department staff are working to draft new spend plans to improve the county as a whole
- AB617 is a state legislation to support community planning in their work towards improving air quality. The county health department has been invited by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District to participate in the steering committee planning for the East Oakland area which is scheduled to start in the summer.
- Commissioner Engeda asks about the county's involvement in wastewater surveillance to which Director Watkins-Tartt responds that only part of the county is involved and work to expand is in progress.
- Commissioner Engeda asks about the current rates of the 2<sup>nd</sup> booster to which Neetu Balram responds that so far, the data shows that the most current booster is not being administered at as high of a rate in comparison to previous doses.
- Vice Chair Harper expressed concerns about the language and concepts regarding public participation in the air quality improvement and asks if there are resources or training to educate and prepare the public better for the East Oakland effort. Director Watkins-Tartt responds saying that training and educational sessions are usually provided however, she will make sure to mention in in upcoming conversations.
- Commissioner asks about the current infant formula shortage and what solutions or strategies the county has planned. Director Watkins-Tartt responds saying she is working with the WIC program director currently to discuss the situation further.
- Commissioner Bolton expresses concerns about the low air quality in West Oakland and asks about the solutions for individuals like herself who struggle with asthma or other breathing problems. Director Watkins-Tartt responds saying she will connect her with Margaret Gordon from the West Oakland Environment Indicators Project for more resources and information.

- The role of the Public Information Office of the public health department is to create messages that inform and educate the community on important health matters.
- Strategic planning and key message development in newsletters, social media, and other platforms are very important in communicating important information to the public.
- Crisis communications are messages to the public on emergency matters or events that were sudden and the PIO's role is to formulate and release these messages to provide as much transparency and information within guidelines to the community.
- Another responsibility of the public information office is to explain local guidance and regulations or programs in ways that are digestible and well-received by the public. Different forms of social media, infographics, press release, reports, and newsletters are all methods used to communicate the information.
- The public information office also partners on regional messages to amplify and support other organizations and their messages.
- Not only does the public information office release local-level information, they also communicate state-level information.
- The public information uses all its resources and strategies to also promote various programs and events hosted by various departments or organizations.
- Neetu Balram is currently working on a vaccination campaign to increase vaccination rates in the youth and African American and Latinx demographics.
- Other data and statistics that gauge the engagement and effectiveness of the campaigns are employed for higher quality messaging strategies and overall ongoing improvement.
- Commissioner Qaadri asks about how the county can better streamline pandemic information so that the public can look to a single source regarding updates. Neetu Balram responds saying that the COVID-19 pandemic was a challenge because information was changing rapidly, therefore the best course of action the department could take was to refer to the CDC and amplify their messages while still providing data and messages relevant to Alameda County.
- Commissioner Boller states that the commission is forming a Facebook page and asks for advice on how much moderation and control should be implemented on the page regarding public comments, engagement, and interactions. Neetu Balram explains that focusing on your demographic, posting often, creating diverse interesting content, and tracking engagement statistics will be key to managing a successful social media account.
- For the department's social media presence, the PIO has been advised by County Council to not delete comments or block users, however there is still the ability to engage with public users and correct misinformation.
- The county does not currently have a social media policy but upon recommendation from the county auditor's office, a formal social media policy or regulations will be created.
- The PIO agrees to help and collaborate with the Communications and Community Outreach committee as they work to develop a social media presence for the commission.

## **LEADERSHIP REPORT**

- Chair Castillo shares op-eds written by students participating in Stanford's Leadership Education for Aspiring Physicians program. Chair Castillo was interviewed by the students and wanted to share their work on important issues such as the grieving process.
- Vice Chair Harper states that this can be a starting point for future connections with other local schools and colleges.
- Vice Chair Harper recently received the vendor package for the Juneteenth festival which will take place on June 25<sup>th</sup>, the Public Health Commission will be participating in the festival in the health section. This will be an opportunity to build new connections and for recruitment.
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## **COMMITTEE UPDATES**

- *Medi-Cal Ad Hoc Committee*
  - The CalAIM meeting is going to be rescheduled.
- *Nominations*
  - N/A
- *Oral Health*
- *Communications and Community Outreach*
  - The next meeting will be on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and this meeting will involve electing an official chair.
  - There has been work on forming a Facebook page and establishing certain protocols and guidelines.
  - There have also been conversations about starting a public forum to create a time and space to discuss specific issues such as reproductive rights, cancer, COVID-19, and violence prevention. This could be an opportunity to work with other community groups and ultimately network while building partnerships.
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- *Health Equity in All Policies*
  - Commissioner Engeda announces that HEiAP will be having its next meeting at 6:30pm on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022 and representatives from the legislative council of the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency will be giving a presentation.
  - There are possible plans for the legislative council representatives to present to the whole commission in July.

#### **IN-PERSON MEETINGS**

- Commissioner Boller suggests having hybrid meetings as an option while slowly transitioning back to in person meetings potentially in July or August.
- County council will need to clarify a few questions regarding vaccinations such as if the commission is allowed to require the public to be vaccinated or what the process is for unvaccinated individuals at a venue that requires it.
- Having food at these meetings is to be determined depending on the space and regulations of the venue.
- Director Watkins-Tartt suggests looking into larger venue spaces that will allow people to social distance whether they have their masks on or not.
- The specific details of in-person meetings will be discussed further.

#### **AGENDA SETTING**

- Discussion of in-person meetings
- Standing items

#### **GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- N/A

#### **ADJOURN**

- Meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted by: Phaplynn Phan

#### UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting  
 June 9th, 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](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 schedule and more.