

ALAMEDA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING OF July 14th, 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)

Dis t. #	Member Name	Term Exp.	1/13/22	2/10/22	3/10/16	4/14/22	5/12/22	6/9/22	7/14/22
1	Evan Branning	01/29/23	P	P	A	A	A	A	A
1	Kashef Qadri	12/06/22				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	A	P	P	A	A
3	Greg Boller	01/29/23	P	A	P	P	P	A	P
3	Carolyn Bolton	02/11/24	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
3	Njeri Gathuka	2/07/24				A	A	A	A
4	Zhonnet Harper	07/01/22	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
4	Gary Howard	11/28/23	P	P	P	P	P	P	A
5	Helene Hoenig	01/26/23	P	P	A	A	P	P	P
5	Mitzy De La Pena Medina	3/23/23	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
At-Large	Joseph Engeda	12/18/22	P	P	A	P	P	P	A

Staff:

- Kimi Watkins-Tartt, Alameda County Public Health Department, Director
- Evette Brandon, Alameda County Public Health Department, QIA Director
- Candace Brooks, Alameda County Public Health Department, OTGA Staff Support
- Neetu Balram, Alameda County Public Health Department, PIO Manager
- Eileen Ng, Health Care Services Agency, Policy Director
- Phaplynn Phan, Alameda County Public Health Department, PHC Staff Support

Public:

- Stephanie Marrus
- Ale Vazquez

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

- Chair Castillo calls the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- N/A

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Motion made by Commissioner Qadri and seconded by Commissioner Hoenig to approve the June 2022 meeting minutes. The motion passes with one abstention.

BROWN ACT VOTE

- Motion made by Chair Castillo and seconded by Commissioner Qadri to extend the continuance of virtual meetings into the month of August. The motion passes.

STAFF REPORT

- Staff informs the commission of current vacancies in each district:
 - D1: 1 vacancy
 - D2: 1 vacancy
 - D3: 1 vacancy
 - D4: 2 vacancies
 - D5: 1 vacancy
 - At Large: 4 vacancies
- District 2 has an incoming commissioner, Ammar Bhajji.
- District 5 has an incoming commissioner, Jason Budge.
- There are currently 2 candidates for the at-large position, staff will send the chairs the application information and the candidates' resume for review.
- Sheriff Yesenia Sanchez was not able to join the July meeting due to taking time off to take care of a hospitalized family member, however, staff will stay in touch to invite the sheriff to future meetings.
- Staff has sent out a Google form to capture commissioner's biographies to be used on social media platforms and the website.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- There are current leadership changes in the Public Health Department. The Community Health Services department director, Quamrun Eldridge, has retired and the Family Health Services department director Kiko Malin has relocated to the East Coast for family reasons.

- The Public Health Infrastructure funding was approved in the governor's budget. About 6.5 million dollars will be allocated for the future and development of the Public Health Department. 70% of the budget must be used toward permanent staff.
- An application for a new 5 year grant from the CDC is being worked on. The funding from the grant will be used towards data modernization.
- The mask requirement was lifted on 6/24/22 after key metrics improved/stabilized. Indoor masking remains strongly recommended.
- The department's quarantine policy now aligns with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and CalOSHA's policy.
- Updated state K-12 school guidance for the 2022-2023 school year will focus on improving indoor air quality, supporting access to antigen testing, supporting hand hygiene, encouraging staying home when sick, and notifying families about COVID-19 exposures. Asymptomatic, exposed children can stay in school; masks and testing recommended. School and class closures for COVID-19 should only be used as a last resort.
- Case investigations continue to finish screening for ARCH stipends. 1164 approved ARCH applications as of 7/8/22 and less than 27 stipends remaining.
- Case investigators will continue to support and assist with cases associated with outbreaks.
- About 45% of the total county population has received the first booster and about 10.8% have received the second booster.
- CDPH has implemented OptumServe mobile sites Test to Treat Operations. There are 144 sites throughout the state. For Alameda County, there are two fixed sites at San Leandro Marina Community Center and the West Berkeley Service Center. There are 9 mobile testing bus locations throughout Alameda County and the city of Berkeley.
- Masks purchase update: Phase 1 included the purchase of 126k of KN95 masks and they arrived on 5/6/22. The pick up location is the Dublin EMS warehouse. Partners will be able to pick up masks on 5/20/22 and will be offered test kits and other PPE supplies. 31 of 96 partner organizations have responded, 26 of them have picked up masks, and 5 will schedule to pick up masks.
- Recent coalition activities include community events at stationary PODS such as Easter egg hunts, mobile vaccination and testing events, pop-up PODs, wellness block parties, community health fairs, Boss' Juneteenth event, booth hosting, outreach tabling, and street outreach.
- Data from the recent coalition activities show that about 110,724 residents have been reached. Much work needs to be done to improve the percentage of residents being outreached in their primary language.
- There will be efforts to reduce the amount of stationary vaccination PODs and instead implement mobile vaccination PODs.
- COVID-19 vaccines are now recommended for young children. 3 doses of Pfizer and 2 doses of Moderna are now recommended for children 6 months and older.
- Last fall, the board of supervisors (BOS) requested the Health Care Services Agency (HCSA) to administer a total of \$11M of ARPA funding for outreach and navigation and capacity building. Listening sessions have been held to obtain additional input and to better understand how the community defines capacity building, outreach, and navigation
- The \$11M ARPA funding will be distributed as follows: \$1.8M for grants, \$50k for 1:1 executive coaching, \$4M for outreach/resource navigation, \$3.55M for contract augmentations, and about \$1M for administrative personnel and program costs.
- COVID-19 strategic refresh updates: no change in overall goals, only refreshed strategies. The department has partnered with the Community Advisory Group on tactics, prioritization, communication, and community engagement. The final updated strategy refresh is scheduled to be completed by August.
- Monkeypox current outbreak response currently includes surveillance (case identification and reporting to CDPH, approval and coordination of lab testing by CDPH), containment (isolation of cases, contact tracing), vaccination strategies (post-exposure prophylaxis and pre-exposure prophylaxis), and outreach to those most affected and to raise general awareness.

- A member of the public asks what changes are being made to COVID-19 policies or strategies as dominant strains vary. Director Watkins-Tartt responds saying that masking and other guidelines are still being encouraged and lockdowns are not sustainable in the long run.
- Commissioner Hoenig asks what the plans are for providing availability to the second booster. Director Watkins-Tartt and Neetu Balram responds saying that the second booster is only available currently for those that are over 50 or immunocompromised. The availability of boosters will be subject to change with time.
- Commissioner Qaadri asks about masks mandates especially while we approach the fall season. Director Watkins-Tartt responds saying that mask mandates will not be reinstated currently but are still a viable strategy to reduce the spread of COVID-19 if needed.
- Vice Chair Harper comments saying that she previously contracted COVID-19 and the testing and contact tracing process she went through with the Public Health Department was very efficient.
- Chair Castillo asks if there are strategies in place to protect those that are financially vulnerable during this pandemic. Director Watkins-Tartt responds saying that the department does not currently have the safety net of paid leave for workers but wants to work to establish a better approach. Eileen Ng responds saying that the department currently follows CalOSHA in terms of COVID-19 policies.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL POLICY PROCESS PRESENTATION

- Eileen Ng is the Policy Director and Jessica Blakemore is the Policy and Legislative Analyst for the Healthcare Services Agency. Policy work in HCSA is defined as the agency-wide coordination of policy, communications, and collaborations to advance HCSA's vision and mission through proactive strategies.
- The Board of Supervisor's Personnel/Administration/Legislation Committee (BOS PAL) reviews federal, state and local legislations and other regulatory or administrative matters referred by county departments. They also review and sign all letters of support/opposition for legislative and regulatory matters. The BOS PAL recommends approval of the county's legislative platform and priorities, advances all recommendations to the full BOS for final approval, and provides direction to the county's state and federal lobbyists on advancing the county's legislative agenda.
- The legislative platform is updated every 2 years and organized around Vision 2026, it identifies policy principles and priorities across all county agencies. HCSA priorities covered in Vision 2026 include: Healthcare for All, Employment for All, Eliminate Poverty and Hunger, and Eliminate Homelessness
- Legislative priorities are updated annually and highlights specific priorities for the year.
- The 2022 HCSA priorities include: COVID-19 response and recovery, flexible funding for public health, behavioral health system of care, homelessness, workforce investment and pipeline development, CalAIM implementation and Medi-Cal expansion, and emergency medical services.
- Key policy issues and the county's stance tracked in 2022 include state legislation such as AB1618 Alzheimer's disease (support), SB872 Pharmacies mobile unit (support), SB861 Dementia Care Navigator Grant Program (support), and AB1737 Children's Camps (oppose).
- Key policy issues relating to state budget tracked in 2022 include, COVID-19 Response Funding, Public Health Infrastructure and Workforce, Child Health and Disability Prevention Program Sunset, Medi-Cal expansion to all regardless of immigration status, and Behavioral Health Housing Continuum Funding Request.
- State regulations tracked in 2022 include Medi-Cal Doula Care benefit design and CalAIM implementation.
- Federal Issues tracked in 2022 include MIECHV Reauthorization, COVID-19 Uninsured Program Funding, and Public Charge Proposed Rule.
- The Public Health Commission (PHC) can take positions on legislation, budget, or regulatory action by contacting commission support staff and the HCSA Policy Team, provide a description of the item and the problem it causes or solves, then the HCSA Policy Team will work with the PHC and other necessary programs/departments to ensure all aspects of the item are understood and aligned with the agency.
- HCSA's policy and legislative process takes about 4-6 weeks total. Items from the commission must first go to the department for review, second to HCSA's Legislative Council, third to agency-wide review, fourth to CAO & County

Departments review, fifth to BOS PAL review, and finally to the BOS for review. These steps must be taken to establish an official county position.

- Key state timelines for budget include: July 1st the start of the fiscal year, January 10th the Governor releases the proposed budget for the next fiscal year, May 14th Governor releases revised budget proposal, and June 15 legislature must pass a balanced budget.
- Key state timelines for legislation include: mid-January is the bill submission deadline, mid-February is the bill introduction deadline, March is when the policy committee review bills, June is when the policy committee reviews bills sent over from the other house, mid-September is the deadline to pass most bills out of the legislature, and October is when the Governor signs into law or vetoes bills passed by legislature.
- HCSA's role throughout the above timelines are to track and monitor for impacts and recommend positions and proposals to the BOS
- Key federal timelines for budget include: October 1st is the start of the fiscal year, February the president submits budget to congress, April 15th Congressional Budget Resolutions appropriations bill, October 1st Appropriations bill passed and the president signs or vetoes.
- The federal timeline for legislations as follows: during anytime in the session a bill can be introduced, then committee hearings are set, after mark up/amendments are made, then full committee action takes place, floor action follows, then referral to other chamber, and by December the President acts on the bills.
- Earned media is defined as engagement with traditional media outlets such as newspapers, tv, and news blogs.
- The department's media usually include content on guidance, good news, op-eds, and pitched stories or exclusives.
- Ideas can be sent to Neetu Balram and Kimi Watkins-Tartt where they can assist with strategy and drafting.
- Areas of collaboration between the PHC and HCSA in regard to legislation can include the weekly sharing of the priority bill list, an annual legislative process presentation to the PHC, presentations to the PHC or HEiAP twice a year to discuss and identify legislative priorities for the next year (fall) and to provide state budget and legislative updates (spring), and support in submission of PAL requests.

LEADERSHIP REPORT

- Chair Castillo continues to attend the Measure A committee meetings and has been working on 2021 reports. The 2019 and 2020 reports are close to being finalized and will be shared with the commission soon.
- Due to issues with equipment and access, hybrid meetings are not an option currently. Moving forward meetings will need to be fully remote or in-person until quality technology is accessible. Subcommittees may elect to meet in-person if the Brown Act requirements are met.
- Vice Chair Harper and Commissioner De La Pena set up a booth and staffed the Juneteenth Festival, the event went very well. Commissioners are encouraged to look into other community events.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- *Medi-Cal Ad Hoc Committee*
 - There is a presentation planned from Anthem Blue Cross and Alameda Alliance for Health for the month of July, but it may be rescheduled.
 - In January 2024 Medi-Cal benefits will be expanded to all eligible undocumented individuals.
- *Nominations*
 - The Nominations committee would like to collaborate with the Communications and Community Outreach committee regarding recruitment.
 - Commissioner Hursts term ended on 6/30/22 and his reappointment will be voted on at the next BOS meeting.
- *Oral Health*
 - N/A
- *Communications and Community Outreach*

- Progress has been made on the developing the Facebook page, work is being done to update the new website, efforts to start a community forum are in the works, and a chair has not been elected yet due to quorum issues.
- The next Communications and Community Outreach meeting might be held in person at Angelas's Kitchen in Berkeley.
- *Health Equity in All Policies*
 - Vice Chair Harper has invited the organizer of the Juneteenth Festival, Barbara Howard, to speak to the HEiAP committee and possibly the whole commission.
 - The HEiAP committee will be meeting on Thursday, July 28th

AGENDA SETTING

- Legislative priorities with Eileen Ng
- Standing items

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- N/A

ADJOURN

- Meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted by: Phaplynn Phan

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting
August 11th, 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.