

Public Health Commission

Main Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 13, 2026

Attendance: Harsha, Ernesto, Anurag, Nico, Izu, Aladrian, Ravi, Z, Jessica, Aditi, Deb, Sequoia, Oliver, Sally, Tawanda, Alana

Guest: Evette Brandon

Staff: Leah, Ben, Mindy

Call to Order: 6:49PM

The Commission approved changing the agenda order so that the Strategic Initiatives Committee update could be presented at the beginning of the meeting, immediately after the call to order.

Motion: Sally

Second: Aditi

Status: Approved

Strategic Initiatives Committee update and action item:

The committee is preparing for upcoming community events. Members discussed purchasing promotional items for outreach and tabling. The Commission approved a budget of up to \$1,500 for promotional items from Levy Promotions.

Motion: Deb

Second: Harsha

Status: Approved

Public Comment

Kindred Hospital workers and union representatives shared concerns about staffing, patient safety, lack of supplies and equipment, staff stress, wages, and working conditions. They also discussed challenges with retaining nurses and other staff, as well as the hospital's current contract negotiations. Workers asked the Commission for support and help bringing attention to these concerns.

Presentation: PHD Strategic Plan Review

Evette Brandon shared an early draft of the Public Health Department's new strategic plan and requested feedback from the Commission. The plan aims to strengthen the connections between public health and healthcare systems, enhance coordination among health partners, promote equity, and improve emergency preparedness and response. It also focuses on effective communication and the betterment of internal systems and accountability.

Approval of Minutes

The Commission approved the June meeting minutes.

Motion: Aditi

Second: Harsha

Status: Approved

The Commission did not have a quorum in July. There were no minutes to approve for that month.

Discussion: PHC Attendance

The Commissioners discussed attendance issues that caused several subcommittee meetings to be canceled during the summer and were asked to confirm attendance no later than three days before each meeting so staff can determine quorum. Commissioners who cannot regularly attend were also asked to consider stepping off the subcommittee.

Action: Commissioners requested an updated list showing who serves on each subcommittee and how many members are needed for a quorum.

Informational: Commission Updates

Chair/Vice Chair Update

No update.

Committee Updates

Nominations Committee

New Commissioners were welcomed to the Public Health Commission, introduced themselves, and Commissioner introductions and districts were suggested for the September meeting.

Strategic Initiatives Committee

The update was given earlier in the meeting.

Health Equity in All Policies

The committee resumed meetings and is planning a Breast Cancer Awareness Month discussion on homelessness and cancer care. The committee is also working with Public Health staff and partners to identify gaps and opportunities related to food insecurity using the Social Determinants of Health framework.

Communications & Community Engagement Committee

The Healthy Living Festival was selected as the first outreach event and is scheduled for September 24 from 9:00 AM–2:00 PM. The committee is waiting for confirmation on available space and will coordinate a sign-up sheet for Commissioners.

Oral Health Committee

No report

Legislative Committee

The committee did not meet because there was no quorum. A Special Meeting has been scheduled for September 2 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM to discuss legislative priorities for the upcoming year. The meeting will be open to both Commissioners and the public.

County Staff Updates

A new Public Health Commission staff member, Sophie, will start on August 31. Staff also announced a Community Health Assessment Forum on September 22 from 11:00 AM–2:00 PM to share data about health conditions and factors affecting Alameda County communities.

General Announcements

Adjournment: 7:57 PM