

ALAMEDA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION

MEETING OF August 11th, 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.	2/10/22	3/10/16	4/14/22	5/12/22	6/9/22	7/14/22	8/11/22
1	David Hurst	07/01/24	P	P	P	A	P	P	P
1	Kashef Qaadri	12/06/22			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	A	P	P	A	A	A
2	Ammar Bhaijii	10/07/23							P
3	Greg Boller	01/29/23	A	P	P	P	A	P	p
3	Carolyn Bolton	02/11/24	P	P	P	P	P	A	A
3	Njeri Gathuka	2/07/24			A	A	A	A	A
4	Zhonnet Harper	07/02/24	P	P	P	P	A	P	P
4	Gary Howard	11/28/23	P	P	P	P	P	A	P
5	Helene Hoenig	01/26/23	P	A	A	P	P	P	P
5	Mitzy De La Pena Medina	3/23/23	P	P	P	A	P	P	A
5	Koren Temple Perry	10/26/23							P
5	Jason Budge	01/09/24							P

At-Lar ge	Joseph Engeda	12/18/22	P	A	P	P	P	A	P
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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
- Phaplynn Phan, Alameda County Public Health Department, PHC Staff Support
- Leah Fortin, Alameda County Public Health Department, Interim PHC Staff Support

Public:

- Diana Dupree, OTGA
- Dorothy Theodore, Intermin Director Office of HIV
- Jessica Osorio, OTGA Contra Costa
- Judy Eliachar, OTGA

CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

- Chair Castillo calls the meeting to order.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- N/A

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Motion made by Commissioner Qaadri, seconded by Commissioner Hoenig. Last month Commissioner Hurst was not a voting member.

BROWN ACT VOTE

- Motion made by Commissioner Qaadri and seconded by Commissioner Engeda to extend the continuance of virtual meetings into the month of September.
- Commissioner Howard brought up a discussion on meeting in person. A hybrid space is needed. Director Watkins-Tartt says that the PH Department is not dictating that meetings can or cannot be held. Commission Boller asks if staff can reserve Castro valley library for October with internet access as a backup plan. Staff will look into alternative options for venues with hybrid meeting capabilities.

STAFF REPORT

- Phaplynn announces that she is stepping down as PH Commission Staff Support to focus on school full-time. Accolades all around. We all wish her well.
- Staff informs the commission of current vacancies in each district:
 - D1: 2 vacancies
 - D2: 1 vacancy
 - D3: 1 vacancy
 - D4: 2 vacancies
 - D5: Full

- At Large: 2 vacancies, 2 new members are being onboarded now with 1 in consideration.
- Oral Health Committee has two more meetings for the remainder of the year taking place on September 21st and November 30th.
- Please fill out the biography form that was sent out to everyone and include a photo for the PH Commission website.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Director Watkins-Tartt

Monkeypox: Currently 117 confirmed cases in the County 61% between ages 18-40. Dashboard shows they are not well vaccinated. Disproportionately disease is hitting gay and bisexual males, LatinX community. Hitting the communities that are most disadvantaged. Testing for Monkeypox is more widely available. We are encouraging individuals to contact primary care provider to be tested. Vaccine supplies are very limited, we are making sure that communities that most need vaccine are prioritized and also we are working with the Berkeley Public Health Department. The department has set up 3 large pods: Oakland Pride event, Kaiser, and Community Health Clinics.

Covid is still with us and steady, not low cases. We are navigating two things simultaneously. Everything is back open, it is challenging to be navigating Covid and Monkeypox simultaneously.

There is currently new initiatives in development in the Department. Guaranteed Income Pilot has announced that the State of CA is funding foster youth as well as pregnant and parenting people. Working with San Francisco Public Health Department to submit a proposal for pregnant and parenting people. Under the leadership of Supervisor Brown, we are also submitting an application for former foster youth. Excited by opportunity. Applications due September 6th. Director Watkins-Tartt hopes that each county (SF and Alameda) can ask for the full amount of funding.

Commissioner Hoenig asks, will former foster youth have to reside in Alameda County. Director Watkins-Tartt will get back with parameters of eligibility.

CDC application is a 5-year grant that PHD will submit. Centered around Workforce Development. Trying to keep the talented staff that we hired during covid. Talent retention, data management, IS infrastructure, admin Support. Evette Brandon, George Ayala and Tamarra Brown are taking on the bulk of the effort. Heavily centered on workforce and human resources infrastructure. Trying to make the hiring practice easier for individuals.

Question on Monkeypox vaccine. How many have been distributed so far? Alameda County has about 3,000 doses. She will get back with number of vaccines distributed so far to staff. How many doses do people get? Director Watkins-Tartt will confirm the information. When will the monkeypox vaccine be available to other health care providers? Kaiser, Alameda Health Systems, Federally Qualified Health Centers, and Sutter are distributing the vaccine. AC is working with the other providers to ensure that the vaccines are evenly distributed, AC does not wish to be the primary space, it is not sustainable. Need our partners.

There was a presentation by Dr. Dunne that was informative. Commissioner Castillo will send out video to the Commissioners.

When Director Watkins-Tartt looks back she sees that this is the first summer where everything is open. Covid is swirling all around. This winter, everything open with no mask requirements and no social distancing, she expects numbers to go up. Although the severity is unknown, there is likely to be an uptick in Covid cases this winter.

LEADERSHIP REPORT

As you all know Phaplynn is transitioning, we are searching for support staff. Please circulate the job description that Commissioner Castillo sent out.

Measure A report will soon be finalized (a tax measure that allocate funds to specific populations). Commissioner Castillo will share when it is finalized. If people are interested in specific groups that are funded by Measure A, we can invite them to attend a meeting.

Elections come open at the end of the year, they are two-year terms. In October we will open up nominations, voting in November. The new year may see a new Chair and Vice Chair.

Vice-Chair Harper, tabled at National Night Out representing the PH Commission. Encourages other Commissioners to attend community events. The public enjoy the information from the Health Department.

Chair Castillo will arrange to meet with the new Commissioners to provide an orientation to serving on the commission and answer any questions.

Breast Cancer: Commissioner Harper thinks this is not the right time to do a town hall on breast cancer. Although there is a crisis going on, we don't have the resources to provide the community. We can start to compile the needed resources. She wants to go into the community directly and she is cautious where she goes, as her patients are already compromised. We need to examine other considerations, continuing on Zoom increases our safety. There is too much uncertainty. She had proposed to Dr. Rhodes from UCSF to be the moderator of the October meeting. She has ideas for other panelists, considering health inequity as a main area of focus. The meeting would consist of an overview, a focus on health disparities, and Wisdom Study. She feels a well-received panel presentation on breast cancer could take place in October.

Commissioner Boller asks what help Commissioner Harper needs. She may need administrative help and is welcoming others to recommend other panelists. Commissioner Budge recommends another panelist, Dr. Pamela Munster at UCSF is also a breast cancer specialist, including BRCA. Commissioner Howard asks if this topic is in sync with PHD focus. Commissioner Harper reiterates that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Our regularly scheduled PH Commission meeting in October, will take place on Zoom due to safety concerns around Covid.

Commissioner Boller clarifies that the purpose of the Town Halls was going to be to gather more public attention. There was some confusion as Commissioner Howard had proposed the first Town Hall for October. The Communications Committee will take care of the details.

COMMITTEE UPDATES

- *Medi-Cal Ad Hoc Committee* – Commissioner Hurst reported: A presentation between Anthem and Alameda County Alliances around health equity was supposed to take place, however scheduling problems have prevented a meeting.
- *Nominations* – Commissioner Hurst reported: He would like to identify ways to fill the gaps that remain in the districts. We must begin to look at Commissioners with poor attendance and will meet to discuss how to proceed. District 5 is full. Overall he would like a more balanced Commission and with a wide-range of experiences.
- *Oral Health* – No report. Next meeting dates are scheduled for September 21st and November 30th.
- *Communication and Community Outreach* - Commissioner Castillo reported: Last meeting was in person at a restaurant. New chairs were elected. There is current work being done on the Facebook page. The website is updated and ready to go. A piece on Monkeypox is being reviewed by Neetu Balram (PH Public Information officer) then will be uploaded to website.
- *Health Equity in All Policies* - Commissioner Hoenig and Commissioner Engeda reported: They received an important presentation at the last meeting from the Legislative Council. They encourage the new Commissioners to watch the recording of that meeting. The next meeting will be on Thursday, 9/22/22 at 6:30pm, Eileen Ng will also be at the meeting. Eileen Ng wants to see where the priorities cross between PH and PH Commission. There will be no August meeting. If people are interested in policy change, this is the committee who can support that.

AGENDA SETTING for September:

- Plan October meeting – Breast Cancer panel proposal and an outreach plan.
- Begin discussion on opening nomination process. Folks can learn about the leadership positions.

- The steering committee meets the first Thursday of the month. Everyone is welcome to attend (but not vote). We flush out the agenda at that meeting. A new commissioner asks what topics can be added to an agenda? People may want to discuss specific items, suggest speakers, topics they want to learn about. Has there been a discussion on Monkeypox? Community Advisory Group (CAG), perhaps we can ask Dr. Dunne to provide a brief presentation on the disease.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Chair Castillo announces that he is transitioning from SF State (where he was a lecturer) to UC Berkeley to do more health related, Labor and Occupational Health work.
- Covered CA has an open enrollment for people without insurance who may be affected by monkeypox.

ADJOURN

- Meeting was adjourned

Respectfully submitted by: Leah Fortin and Phaplynn Phan

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Regular Meeting
September 8th, 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.