

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
September 13, 2018
MINUTES**

**APPROVED
10/11/18**

COMMISSIONERS

Jean G. Champommier, Ph.D. Chairperson *
Crystal D. Crawford, J.D. **
Patrick T. Dowling, M.D., M.P.H. *
Kelly Colopy, M.P.P. *

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of Public Health *
Dr. Muntu Davis, Health Officer *

Sara Guizar, Secretary *
Public Health Commission

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ADVISOR

Megan McClaire, Chief of Staff **
Jacqueline Valenzuela, Senior Advisor *

***Present **Excused ***Absent**

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP
<u>I. Call to Order</u>	<i>The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Chairperson Champommier, at the Health Services Administration building.</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<u>II. Announcements and Introductions</u>	<i>Introduction of Commissioners and guests was conducted.</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<u>III. Approval of Minutes</u>	MOTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 14, 2018 MOTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR AUGUST 9, 2018	<i>Commission Chair Champommier entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes for (June 14, 2018 and August 9, 2018). The motion passed with Commissioner Dowling, seconded by Commissioner Colopy. All in favor.</i>
<u>IV. Public Health Report</u>	Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of Public Health (PH), and Ms. Jacqueline Valenzuela, provided the Commission with the Public Health (PH) Report, and discussed Department of Public Health (DPH) activities since the last report on August 9, 2018. Dr. Ferrer provided the Commission with information on the new Community Healing and Trauma Prevention Center (Center). She stated the Center is housed at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Public Health and serves a community experiencing the highest rates of assault-related trauma and homicide in Los Angeles County (LAC). She stated various agencies, County	

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partners, and community agencies also supported and participated in the development of the new Center.

Commissioner Dowling commented on the creative use of space the Center will bring into the community.

Ms. Valenzuela provided the Commission with information on the following News Releases:

- Saint Louis Encephalitis Virus Found in LAC Mosquitos
- Public Health Warns of Possible Measles Exposure
- Public Health Reports an Increase in Wound Botulism Associated with Heroin Use
- Public Health Opens Community Healing and Trauma Prevention Center in South Los Angeles

CLOSING THE LOOPHOLES OF EXITING COUNTY SMOKE-FREE ORDINANCES AND NEW POLICY ACTIONS TO ADDRESS GAPS IN TOBACCO CONTROL

Ms. Valenzuela stated DPH offered recommendations for closing loopholes around existing county smoke-free ordinances, offering various strategies related to expanding regulation of tobacco shops, including tobacco retailer licensing, and decreasing smoking in communities, including by regulating outdoor smoking at restaurants and at County facilities.

Dr. Ferrer commented on DPH's recommendations to the Board of Supervisors (Board), which include that standard definitions related to tobacco products be changed to include electronic smoking devices (ESDs). She stated DPH recommends several regulatory mechanisms based on best practices suggested by national experts. These include: 1) revising the LAC definition of tobacco products to include ESDs and recreational cannabis; 2) prohibiting the sale of menthol flavored cigarettes; 3) prohibiting the sale of flavored non-cigarette tobacco products; 4) requiring minimum pack size for cigarillos and little cigars; 5) prohibiting new tobacco retailers near sensitive youth areas (e.g., schools, parks, libraries); 6) prohibiting new tobacco retailers from locating within certain proximity of other tobacco retailers; 7) prohibiting establishment of any new significant tobacco retailers; 8) limiting or capping the number of retailers that can sell tobacco products; 9)

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regulating the sale of paraphernalia; and 10) prohibiting the sale of tobacco products in pharmacies.

Dr. Ferrer stated there are currently 22 jurisdictions in LAC that have adopted at least one or more of the recommended practices; currently 14 places are regulating ESDs. DPH currently works with the Board to support efforts at the State level to reduce tobacco use in the movies/film industry. DPH recommends strengthening the existing smoke-free beaches and parks ordinance for the unincorporated areas of LAC, as well as strengthening existing smoke-free institutional policies for facilities owned or leased by the County. She stated DPH also works on efforts of expanding the outdoor dining regulations for the unincorporated areas of LAC. In addition, DPH recommends adopting a new comprehensive smoke-free policy to address multi-unit housing and condominiums as many children, families, and pets are affected in their homes by drifting secondary smoke exposure which enters via windows, under doorways, and through wall cracks.

Dr. Ferrer welcomed feedback and/or ideas from the Commission on efforts for a tobacco-free County.

**ADDRESSING GAPS AND DISPARITIES TO HELP REDUCE STD RATES
IN LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

Ms. Valenzuela stated DPH was asked by the Board to report back on its progress toward implementing four (4) directives to help reduce the rates of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) in LAC. She stated DPH works on efforts and plans to address gaps related to STDs in LAC. She informed the Commission of the STD workplan which outlines actions needed to reduce STD cases and rates in LAC.

Dr. Ferrer stated DPH was instructed by the Board to work on reducing the rates of STDs across LAC, as LAC currently experiences an epidemic disproportionately affecting people of color, men having sex with men, and gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities. Dr. Ferrer also stated that DPH works on strategies to reduce the proportionality increased rates of STDs and works on efforts to reduce cases of congenital syphilis to zero. DPH is working with health plans to identify strategies to improve screening and treatment performance among their network of medical providers, provide treatment to both their patients and their partners, and provide opportunities to providers to improve the rates in screening.

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Dr. Davis commented on the medical coverage for people under Medi-cal and other health plans. He stated DPH's Division of HIV and STD Programs and Acute Communicable Disease and Control Program work collaboratively in providing communities affected by STDs with proper treatment and services.

Dr. Ferrer announced the appointment of Gerardo Pinedo as the new Deputy Director for Operations and Administration for DPH. She stated David Dijkstra, prior Director of Operations and Administration, is heading toward retirement. She expressed gratitude to Mr. Dijkstra for his hard work and his years of service. She also announced that the Office for the Advancement of Early Care and Education has transition over to DPH. DPH is in the process of hiring a director for this office. Dr. Ferrer stated she is thrilled with this opportunity to link efforts around this Office. The programs focus is on providing training for early childcare providers. She stated DPH supports ten (10) County childcare facilities and DPH has significant investment in related policy work. Babies, toddlers, and small children spend most of their early years being cared for by other people, and DPH welcomes the opportunity to help providers and families ensure children are safe in an inviting environment.

Dr. Ferrer also announced the arrival of the Domestic Violence Council as part of DPH. The Council provides services for CalWorks clients who have experienced domestic violence. She stated DPH is in the process of posting the Council on the DPH website.

Commission Chair Champommier expressed his gratitude to Dr. Ferrer and DPH Staff for their dedication and enthusiasm.

Commissioner Dowling commented on readmissions and substance abuse being a major problem in homeless people. He also commented on the hospitals, jails, and homelessness epidemic in LAC.

Commissioner Champommier asked about the status of the recycling plant.

Dr. Ferrer provided the Commission with a brief discussion of the recycling plant.

Chair Champommier thanked DPH for an amazing PH report.

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<u>V.</u> <u>Presentation:</u> <u>Environmental</u> <u>Health</u>	Dr. Ferrer provided the Commission with a brief presentation on Environmental Justice. She stated the Environmental Health Division will be providing the Commission with a full detailed presentation in the months to come.	
<u>VI.</u> <u>Adjournment</u>	The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:13 p.m.	