

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
 PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
 MARCH 28, 2013
 MINUTES

APPROVED

COMMISSIONERS

Patrick Dowling, M.D., M.P.H., Chairperson*
 Jean G. Champommier, Ph.D., Vice-Chair**
 Waleed W. Shindy M.D., M.P.H.*
 Michelle Anne Bholat, M.D., M.P.H. **

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE

Jonathan E. Fielding, Director of Public Health and Health Officer***
 Angela Haley, Secretary*
 Public Health Commission

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ADVISOR

Cynthia Harding, Chief Deputy*
 Public Health

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION YOUTH ADVISOR

Vacant

*Present **Excused ***Absent

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP
I. CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:08 a.m. by Chairperson Dowling at Central Health Center.	Information only.

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II. ANNOUNCEMENTS & INTRODUCTIONS	<i>Introductions of Commissioners and guests were conducted.</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES	<i>Minutes will be approved at the next meeting when there's a quorum.</i>	

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<p>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT</p>	<p>Cindy Harding provided the Commission with a Public Health Report and discussed public health activities since the last report on March 14, 2013.</p> <p>Update on Homeless TB Outbreak Response Efforts</p> <p>Dr. Robert Kim-Farley updated the Commission, and indicated that DPH hasn't come across any new TB cases since his last report two weeks ago.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DPH continues to conduct an intensive investigation. • DPH is continuing to work with the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to investigate this outbreak. • In the last couple of decades TB cases have decreased from 2,000 cases a year to 625 cases in 2012. • In the last couple of decades TB cases in the homeless population has decreased from 236 cases a year to 39 cases in 2012. 	

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<p>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT CONTINUED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genotyping (DNA testing) of specimens from identified TB cases may assist DPH in effectively identify all contacts at risk for this disease. • DPH faces the challenges of mental health issues in the homeless population, and identify a preventive treatment from patients who have other illnesses. • Legal measures are in place for those refusing treatment. • DPH is working with homeless shelter operators for treatment protocols. • There are 76 active TB cases, and 63 of those cases are homeless. <p>Dr. Kim Farley indicated that DPH expects to receive the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations from their visit in four to six weeks and will share the report with the Commission.</p> <p>Dr. Kim Farley indicated DPH's most important priority is to continue our work in identifying and treating patients with clinically active disease that could be sources of transmission to others; secondly, identify and provide a preventive treatment for those who may have been infected from these active cases, but are not themselves active cases but have the latent TB infection.</p>	

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IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT CONTINUED	<p><i>Ms. Harding indicated she wanted to ensure that the Commission was updated on the TB outbreak response efforts.</i></p> <p><i>The Commission thanked Dr. Kim-Farley for the TB outbreak update.</i></p>	

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<p>V. UPDATE – SEWAGE REPORT</p>	<p>Aura Wong, Environmental Protection Bureau, Environmental Health (EH), informed the Commission that she and her colleagues (Benedict Lee and Becky Valenti) will provide an update on the current system for reporting sewage discharges; specifically, discharges to the ocean.</p> <p>Mr. Benedict Lee, Chief, Recreational Water Program, EH, provided an update of EH Recreational Waters Program.</p> <p>Ocean Water Sampling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaches along Los Angeles County (LAC) coast are sampled year round, and at Avalon on Santa Catalina Island from April through October. • Three agencies, Environmental Health, L.A. City Environmental Monitoring Division (EMD), and LAC Sanitation Districts, cooperatively sample LAC Beaches. Sampling data from each agency is reported to the Recreational Waters Program (Ocean Monitoring) for public notification. • Ocean water test results, beach health data (number and duration of postings) and beach closures are reported to the State. 	

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<p>V. UPDATE – SEWAGE REPORT CONTINUED</p>	<p>Ocean Water Quality Public Notification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocean water samples are tested for specific bacteria which may indicate a possible public health hazard. • If a sample exceeds California State standards for indicator bacteria, warning signs are posted at the beach advising the public to avoid water contact at that location. • Beach Advisory warnings are also posted on the EH website, telephone hot line, and the LAC Fire Department website. • Beaches are not closed for exceeding State bacteria standards. <p>State Standards for Ocean Water Samples</p> <p><u>Total Coliform</u> >10,000 cfu per 100 ml</p> <p><u>Fecal Coliform (E. coli)</u> >400 cfu per 100 ml</p> <p><u>Enterococcus</u> >104 cfu per 100 ml</p>	

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<p>V. UPDATE – SEWAGE REPORT CONTINUED</p>	<p>Becky Valenti, Assistant Chief, Recreational Water Program, EH, discussed Sewage Discharge Reporting.</p> <p>Public Health Significance of Sewage Discharges</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sewage discharges may cause human illness. • State of California requires tracking of sewage discharges and closure of affected beaches. <p>Pathogens Found in Sewage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bacteria – Salmonella, Shigella, Vibro, Leptospira, Yersinia, E. coli, Campylobacter • Viruses – Hepatitis A, Hepatitis E, Poliovirus, Rotavirus, Echovirus, Norwalk virus • Parasites – Entamoeba, Giardia, Cryptosporidium, tape worms <p>Requirement to Report Sewage Discharges to Local Health Officer</p> <p>California Health and Safety Code, Section 5411.5</p> <p>“Any person, without regard to intent or negligence, causes or permits any sewage or other waste, or the effluent of treated sewage or other waste to be</p>	

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<p>V. UPDATE – SEWAGE REPORT CONTINUED</p>	<p>Discharge Reporting Definitions</p> <p><u>Immediate Response</u> means 15 minutes from the time an agency confirms that a sanitary sewer overflow has occurred or is occurring from the agency's sewer collection system.</p> <p><u>Reportable Sewage Discharge</u> means any sewage that is discharged (break or blockage in any line, clean out cap removed, etc.) from a sewerage system outside a building onto the ground surface which has passed the curb and entered the street gutter flowing toward or entering the storm water systems. This applies to commercial as well as residential buildings.</p> <p><u>Waters of the State</u> means any water on the ground surface which has passed the curb and entered the street gutter flowing toward or entering the storm water system.</p> <p>Discharge Reporting Procedures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a sewage discharge is flowing from a manhole into the street, and entering a storm drain (<u>Waters of the State</u>), the Collection Agency (i.e., LAC Sanitation) shall immediately notify the County Operator at (213) 974-1234. 	

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V.UPDATE – SEWAGE REPORT CONTINUED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All notifications to the County Operator shall be assigned an Incident number. • The person reporting the sewage discharge is required to provide the following minimal information: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Contact information 2. Location of the discharge 3. Amount of the discharge 4. Start time and end time of the discharge 5. Disposition of the discharge (contained, went into a storm drain or waterway, soaked into ground, etc) <p>Possible Courses of Action</p> <p>Beach Closure – Sewage discharge flows into the ocean creating a public health hazard.</p> <p>Referred to another jurisdiction – Sewage discharge has or will flow into a neighboring city or county.</p> <p>No Action Necessary – Sewage discharge is contained or does not pose a public health hazard.</p>	

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