

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
JULY 10, 2014  
MINUTES

COMMISSIONERS

**Jean G. Champommier, Ph.D., Chairperson\***  
Crystal D. Crawford, J.D., Vice-Chair\*\*  
Waleed W. Shindy M.D., M.P.H.\*  
Michelle Anne Bholat, M.D., M.P.H. \*  
Patrick Dowling, 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 10:07 a.m. by Chairperson Champommier at Central Public Health Center.	Information only.

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<b>II. ANNOUNCEMENTS &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b>	<i>Introductions of Commissioners and guests were conducted.</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<b>III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>	<i>The June 26, 2014 minutes will be approved when Vice-Chairperson Crawford is present.</i>	

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<p><b>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT</b></p>	<p>Cindy Harding provided the Commission with a Public Health Report and discussed public health activities since the last report on June 26, 2014.</p> <p><b>California Department of Public Health Review of Los Angeles County Health Facilities Inspection Division (Item NO. 29-A, AGENDA of June 24, 2014)</b></p> <p>Cindy Harding informed the Commission that the Department of Public Health (DPH) was directed to provide bi-weekly reports on the implementation status of the corrective actions to the recommendations in the Quality Review of Los Angeles County (LAC) Health Facilities Inspection Division (HFID) Long-Term Care Complaint and Entity Reported Incident Investigations, issued by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Center for Health Care Quality (CHCQ). This first bi-weekly report includes how DPH is ensuring complaints involving potential immediate jeopardy to the health and safety of nursing home residents are being prioritized and investigated in a timely manner.</p>	

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<p><b>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT CONTINUED</b></p>	<p>For the Quality Review, CDPH CHCQ Licensing and Certification Program staff reviewed 136 case files, conducted interviews of DPH Health Facilities Inspection Division (HFID) staff and observed HFID's offices around the county to assess HFID's compliance with State and federal complaint and entity reported incident (ERI) investigation and case closure policies. Based on their review and observations, CDPH CHCQ made six recommendations.</p> <p>Ms. Harding indicated that the report shows that five of the six recommendations are complete. Many of their recommendations had to do with additional training of staff, and DPH has ensured that staff has had that additional training.</p> <p>Also, Ms. Harding indicated that by October 1, 2014, HFID will develop a tracking system to monitor training needs and compliance with mandatory training. By December 31, 2014, HFID will develop and implement an audit review process to identify when competencies have not been made and refresher training is needed.</p>	

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<p><b>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT CONTINUED</b></p>	<p>A tracking system to monitor training needs and compliance with mandatory training, and the audit review process are in the developmental stages. Each are on schedule for completion by their referenced due dates.</p> <p>Commissioner Bholat applauded DPH for acting quickly in addressing these issues prior to being advised.</p> <p>Both Commissioners Bholat and Dowling expressed their concerns about an issue they personally witness on a regular basis, of nursing homes dumping their patients in emergency rooms and hospitals when they are about to die. The following questions were asked:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is responsible for addressing this issue?</li> <li>• Is this something DPH inspectors should be looking for during their inspections?</li> <li>• Is a regulation and/or policy in place to enforce this?</li> </ul>	<p>Commissioners Bholat and Dowling stated they would like to talk to whoever is responsible regarding this issue, and requested Ms. Harding to report back to the Commission on who they can meet with to discuss this issue.</p>

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<p>V. VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH (VPH) PROGRAM</p>	<p>Dr. Karen Ehnert, Director, Veterinary Public Health (VPH) Program, provided the Commission with an update of the activities within VPH Program. Dr. Ehnert distributed and discussed the Veterinary Public Health Manual 2013.</p> <p><b><u>Vision</u></b>                      The residents of L.A. County (LAC) are protected from zoonoses and animals are free of reportable animal disease.</p> <p><b><u>Mission</u></b>                      To take advantage of the relationships between human and animal health in order to promote a health community environment for residents of LAC.</p> <p><b><u>Budget</u></b>                      \$1.1 million (approx.)</p> <p>Also, Dr. Ehnert discussed the Healthy Pets, Healthy Families Initiative. The initiative combines the One Health movement with the national Healthy People 2020 model. The county-wide initiative aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create animal health goals based on the latest research</li> <li>• Track trends in animal health</li> <li>• Create programs that improve both animal and human health</li> </ul>	

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<p>V.VPH PROGRAM CONTINUED</p>	<p><b>Legally Mandated Duties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rabies Control: Animal bites, animals exposed to wildlife, and rabies suspects</li> <li>• Animal importation: No sick animals and rabies quarantines</li> <li>• Animal Disease Surveillance: All infectious diseases, priority list, outbreaks or unusual conditions, and active surveillance</li> <li>• Disaster Response, animal related: Control animal disease and outbreaks, technical advisory group and BT threat assessment, and animal response planning and coordination.</li> </ul> <p><b>Additional Program Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020 Healthy Pets Healthy Families</li> <li>• Community outreach</li> <li>• Mentoring, student training</li> </ul> <p><b>Rabies Control: Changes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closure of Lancaster field office on June 30<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Dog rabies vaccination law changed January 1<sup>st</sup> Dogs now allowed to get first vaccination when 3 months old instead of 4 months of age</li> </ul>	

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<p>V. VPH PROGRAM CONTINUED</p>	<p><b>Rabies Control: Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued higher level of bat rabies</li> <li>• Rabid skunk in Long Beach -- June 27<sup>th</sup></li> <li>• Servicing Antelope Valley with reduced staffing and closure of field office</li> </ul> <p><b>Rabies Control: Success</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopted legislation: Modify dog rabies vaccination age, AB 272</li> <li>• No human or pet rabies cases</li> <li>• In 2013, staff investigated: 9,018 animal bites, 101 pets exposed to wild life, &amp; 626 animals tested for rabies</li> </ul> <p><b>Animal Importation: Changes/Challenges/Success</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LAX Animal Importation Collaboration</li> <li>• Quarterly LAX Animal Importation Work Group meetings</li> <li>• Developing study to evaluate dog importation collaborative program</li> <li>• Challenge: CBP documents</li> </ul>	



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<p>V.VPH PROGRAM CONTINUED</p>	<p><b>Animal Disease Surveillance: Changes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New procedure: Case follow-up – all veterinarians now involved</li> <li>• Data and trend review – surveillance veterinarian</li> <li>• New Databased – restricted to current platforms</li> </ul> <p><b>Animal Disease Surveillance: Electronic Lab Reporting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Started January 2014</li> <li>• Two animal labs (Antech &amp; IDEXX)</li> <li>• Pilot: three diseases</li> <li>• Weekly or monthly reports</li> <li>• Not automated</li> <li>• Next steps</li> </ul> <p><b>Animal Disease Surveillance: Success</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veterinary clinic outreach</li> <li>• Partner hospital program – 2 hospitals</li> <li>• Outreach has lead to increase reporting</li> </ul>	

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<p>V. VPH PROGRAM CONTINUED</p>	<p><b>Emerging Zoonotic &amp; Vectorborne Diseases Work Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quarterly meetings</li> <li>• One Health approach</li> <li>• EH-Vector, ACD, VPH and some external partners</li> <li>• Goal: collaboration and data sharing</li> <li>• Diverse topics</li> </ul> <p><b>Flea-Borne Typhus Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 15 presentations 2013-2014</li> <li>• Typhus Forum: April 2013 Healthy Pets, Healthy Families meeting</li> <li>• DPH handout updated</li> <li>• Proposed Veterinary Clinic Outreach</li> <li>• Speaker's Bureau presentation in development</li> </ul> <p><b>West Nile Virus – Dead Bird Testing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birds sentinel for local risk</li> <li>• 2013 – South Bay</li> <li>• Challenge: New lab protocols and space utilization</li> </ul>	

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<p>V.VPH PROGRAM CONTINUED</p>	<p><b>Dog Friendly Community Walking Groups</b></p> <p><b>Goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage the community in One Health</li> <li>• Reduce pet obesity</li> <li>• Get people moving</li> <li>• Increase neighborhood interaction, or "get to know your neighbors"</li> <li>• Spread HPFH related message using our Dog Friendly Walking Group Toolkit</li> <li>• Pilot walking group in Pomona/Claremont</li> <li>• By January 2015, project expands countywide</li> </ul> <p><b>Dog Friendly Walking Group Toolkit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Purpose:</u> Resource for group leaders</li> <li>• <u>Promote:</u> Pet/human health – 7 focus areas; at least one new health tip per week</li> <li>• <u>Encourage:</u> Goal setting, staying motivated to reach goals, and time management.</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>V.VPH PROGRAM CONTINUED</b></p>	<p><b>Pet Ownership and Worksite Wellness Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess if association exists between dog ownership and L.A. County employee physical activity during the work day</li> <li>• Tool for current Wellness Coordinators</li> <li>• To be distributed to County employees by Wellness Coordinator of respective program</li> <li>• Help identify strengths and gaps in wellness initiatives</li> </ul> <p><b>Piloting the Employee Wellness Survey</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 8, 2014: Grand Park Employee Health Expo</li> <li>• 198 pilot sample</li> <li>• Positive feedback</li> <li>• Coordination with Employee Wellness program re: content and distribution</li> </ul> <p><b>Community Outreach</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Veterinary clinic outreach</li> <li>• Vet consults</li> <li>• Presentations</li> <li>• Health fairs &amp; community events</li> <li>• Program website</li> </ul>	

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<p>V.VPH PROGRAM CONTINUED</p>	<p><b>Mentorship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Students and volunteers</li> <li>• Benefits: student experience, MPH projects; program – epidemiology support</li> <li>• Challenges: CBEEP/Live Scan process, space &amp; parking costs, and time</li> <li>• Successes: Projects, and student funding</li> </ul> <p><b>Summary: Vision for the Future</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continual evolution and process improvement</li> <li>• Improve surveillance capacity</li> <li>• Expand collaboration</li> <li>• Improve data to guide our actions</li> <li>• Increase prevention based activities</li> </ul> <p>Commissioner Dowling asked is there any data on cats' diabetes. Dr. Ehnert indicated that Bamfield (a national team) develops an annual report on an increase in obesity and diabetes in cats and dogs.</p> <p>The Commission thanked Dr. Ehnert and staff for an excellent presentation.</p>	<p>Chairperson Champommier suggested that the Wellness Center would be an optional venue that VPH Program could use to hold their meetings, and there's free parking also.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.</p>