

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
MAY 22, 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	<i>The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:12 a.m. by Chairperson Champommier at Central Public Health Center.</i>	<i>Information only.</i>

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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 due to a lack of a quorum.</i>	

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<p>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT</p>	<p><i>Cindy Harding provided the Commission with a Public Health Report and discussed public health activities since the last report on May 8, 2014.</i></p> <p>Los Angeles City Health Commission Ballot Initiative</p> <p><i>Cindy Harding provided the Commission with the latest update on the L.A. City Health Commission ballot initiative. Ms. Harding indicated that some of DPH staff attended the Rules and Inter-governmental Elections Subcommittee of the L.A. City Council, and they are to make a recommendation to City Council to adopt the ordinance outright, rather than put it on the ballot, because it will cost the city \$4.4 million.</i></p> <p><i>We are concerned that the creation of a duplicative City Health Commission will require additional staff work for DPH, as well as the Departments of Health Services and Mental Health.</i></p>	

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<p>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT CONTINUED</p>	<p>Update on Invasive Meningococcal Disease Community Education Plan</p> <p><i>Ms. Harding provided an update on actions the Department of Public Health (DPH) has taken to address community outreach and education regarding invasive meningococcal disease (IMD). On April 7, 2014, the Board was notified about an increase in this year's cases of IMD among men who have sex with men (MSM), including those who are HIV-positive, and new vaccination recommendations issued by DPH. On April 25, 2014, the Board was notified about the successful vaccination efforts through DPH clinics and distribution of vaccine to community providers, along with the plans for community education. The DPH website address has updated information on meningitis, including the latest epidemiological data, educational fact sheets, and frequently asked questions. As soon as the Stop Don't Swap materials are finalized, they will also be posted at the DPH website.</i></p> <p>Release of California Geological Survey Special Report 224, Radon Potential in the Palos Verdes Area, California</p> <p><i>This report is based on a 2008-2009 study of radon levels in the Palos Verdes Peninsula and a compilation of various studies and analyses conducted in the area over the past 10 years.</i></p>	

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<p>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT CONTINUED</p>	<p><i>This area was selected by CDPH and CGS due to the potential for radon gas to emanate from rock formations underlying the Palos Verdes Peninsula. Natural shifts in the rock formation and soil in that area form micro-fractures in the underlying rock and soil formations, allowing radon to move into a house and potentially become concentrated in the indoor air.</i></p> <p><i>L.A. County DPH does not have authority over local radon testing, monitoring or mitigation. However, resources are available for any concerned residents. The attached radon fact sheets, developed by the EPA for homeowners, provide responses to frequent questions and concerns about radon. According to EPA, most homes can be fixed for about the same cost as other common home repairs, like painting or having a new hot water heater installed.</i></p> <p><i>DPH will coordinate with the State and the EPA to refine plans for disseminating the State's Report findings to the public, and to facilitate local stakeholder involvement in public outreach by these agencies about radon potential.</i></p>	

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<p>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT CONTINUED</p>	<p><i>L.A. County Health Survey Article – Breathing Easy? Child Asthma in L.A. County (LAC)</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Harding informed the Commission of the L.A. County Health Survey article “Breathing Easy? Child Asthma in LAC”, and encouraged the Commission to read the article at their convenience.</i></p> <p><i>Asthma is one of the most prevalent chronic diseases of childhood. It is a common inflammatory disease of the small airways in the lungs that makes it difficult to breathe. Symptoms including wheezing, coughing, chest tightness, and shortness of breath. Asthma attacks range in severity from mild to life-threatening. Various environmental exposures such as mold, pests, tobacco smoke, and outdoor air pollution may cause or exacerbate asthma. There is no known cure for asthma, but it can be effectively managed with proper medical and self care, and reduced exposure to environmental triggers.</i></p>	

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<p>V. NURSING ADMINISTRATION (NA)</p>	<p><i>Noel Bazini-Barakat, Director, Nursing Administration (NA), provided the Commission with an update of the activities within NA.</i></p> <p>Vision:</p> <p><i>A competent and knowledgeable nursing workforce that is engaged and enthusiastic about improving the health of all Los Angeles County residents.</i></p> <p>Mission:</p> <p><i>To recruit, retain, educate, and empower the nursing workforce to maximize the nursing contribution to DPH's strategic priorities, goals, and objectives.</i></p> <p>NA Goals”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Promote the recruitment and retention of qualified diverse nurses in DPH.</i> • <i>Assure DPH nursing workforce has the skills and competence to practice safely and efficiently.</i> • <i>Improve the quality of nursing practice through optimizing information management.</i> • <i>NA will evaluate and continuously improve the quality of the public health services provided</i> 	

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V. NA CONTINUED	<p><i>Ms. Barakat discussed the following graphs and charts:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Number of nurses by DPH Division</i> • <i>Race/Ethnicity</i> • <i>Gender/Age</i> • <i>Years of County Services</i> • <i>Highest Level of Education</i> <p><i>Nurse Satisfaction Survey</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In May 2012 nurses were surveyed on their experience working in public health</i> • <i>Information collected on job satisfaction, work environment factors and perceived support received</i> • <i>316 nurses completed the survey – 41% response rate</i> <p><i>Town Hall Meetings</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>16 town hall meetings</i> • <i>536 nurses attended</i> • <i>Purpose: meaning behind the data, and identify priority areas for improvement</i> 	

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<p>V.NA CONTINUED</p>	<p>Quality Improvement Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership • Communication • Workload Caseload • Career Advancement <p>Quality Improvement Plans (QIP) developed for each of the 4 improvement areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership • Communication • Workload/Caseload • Career Advancement <p>Collaboration with DPH Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exam Unit • Employee Relations Unit • Performance Management Unit • Classification Compensation Unit <p>Licensed Clinical Professional Competencies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competency Testing to be conducted in September 2014 • Written • Skills Demonstration Stations 	

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<p>V.NA CONTINUED</p>	<p>Professional Practice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Policy Development</i> • <i>Duty Statements and Classification updates</i> • <i>Practice Conference and evidence-based approaches to public health nursing</i> • <i>Ethics in public health</i> <p><u>Organizational Development and Training (ODT)</u></p> <p><i>Betsy Swanson Hollinger, Organizational Development and Training (ODT), provided an update of activities within ODT.</i></p> <p>Vision:</p> <p><i>A skilled and effective PH workforce.</i></p> <p>Mission:</p> <p><i>Enhance public health workforce excellence through efficient and innovative educational trainings and organizational solutions to promote and protect the health of LAC residents.</i></p>	

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<p>V.NA CONTINUED</p>	<p>ODT Goals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Increased willingness and readiness to respond to public health emergencies</i> • <i>Strengthened leadership capability</i> • <i>Increased awareness of how work aligns with the DPH Mission</i> • <i>Enhanced infrastructure and quality improvement measures to assure achievement of ODT's mission</i> <p>PH Employee Emergency Readiness Framework (PHEERF)</p> <p><i>To improve DPH's operational readiness and timely response to Public Health emergencies through:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Development of a systematic approach to preparing DPH employees to respond to emergencies</i> • <i>Targeted at ALL Public Health Employees</i> • <i>Organized into 4 Incident Command System (ICS) staffing categories, creating 4 Framework levels</i> • <i>Progressive Framework: complete pre-coding level before graduating to next level</i> 	

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V.NA CONTINUED	<p>Leadership Highlights</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Supervisor Development Program</i> • <i>Trust programming</i> <p>Supervisor Development Program (SDP)</p> <p><i>Purpose: Develop supervisors with the skills, knowledge and abilities to excel as effective leaders in various supervisory positions across DPH.</i></p> <p>SDP Desired Outcomes</p> <p><i>To increase:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Productivity</i> • <i>Job Satisfaction</i> • <i>Retention</i> • <i>Emergency Preparedness</i> <p>TRUST: A Leadership Priority</p> <p><i>Build leadership capacity and engagement by creating an environment of <u>trust</u> to ensure exceptional long-term performance in DPH.</i></p>	

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V.NA CONTINUED	<p><i>Trust Plays a Critical Role</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ability to launch timely and effective emergency response efforts.</i> • <i>“Trust also plays a critical role in an individual’s response to public health crises including bioterrorism” and is critical to facilitating appropriate responses and insuring safety of citizens during catastrophic public health situations”.</i> <p><i>Aligning the DPH Workforce to the Mission</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Onboarding of new employees</i> • <i>A unique Public Health day of New Employee Orientation – Day 2</i> • <i>Evidence Based Practice Conference: Science Summit</i> • <i>Customer Service programming</i> • <i>HIPAA Training</i> <p><i>Public Health Workforce Competency Framework – 8 Domains:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Analysis/Assessment</i> • <i>Policy development and program planning</i> • <i>Communication</i> • <i>Cultural competency</i> 	

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<p>V.NA CONTINUED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Community Dimensions of Practice</i> • <i>Public Health Sciences</i> • <i>Management</i> • <i>Leadership and Systems Thinking</i> <p>DPH Workforce Training and Development Needs Assessment</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Evidence for the development and prioritization of trainings, resources, and organizational solutions to improve the workforce's competencies.</i> • <i>PHAB Standards and Measures: Domain & Maintain a Competent PH Workforce</i> <p>Epi Scholars Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>In order to address the need for applied health disparities research at the local level. L.A. County partnered with the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Seattle and King County Department of Public Health, to provide students and opportunity to participate in a rigorous training plan.</i> 	

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<p>V.NA COUNTINUED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Senior Epidemiology staff mentioned students, providing training in theory, methods and real-life public health practice.</i> • <i>Using a 3 year grant from the Beaumont Foundation, L.A. County has hosted over 20 scholars.</i> <p><i>The meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.</i></p>	