**APPROVED** 2/11/16

#### **COMMISSIONERS**

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

#### **DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE**

Dr. Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, Interim Medical Director\*\* Sara S. Guizar, Staff Liaison, PH Commission Staff\*

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ADVISORS**

Cynthia Harding, Interim Director\*\*
Carrie Brumfield, Chief of Staff\*

#### \*Present \*\*Excused \*\*\*Absent

	TOPIC	DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP
<u>L</u>	Call to Order/ Approval of Minutes	The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:35 a.m. by Commissioner Bholat at the PH Laboratories in Downey, CA.	Information only.
		Introduction of Commissioners and guests.	
		Due to a lack of quorum, the approval of minutes was postponed by Commission	
		Chair Crawford, until the next regularly scheduled meeting.	
<u>II.</u>	<u>Public Health</u> <u>Report</u>	<ul> <li>The Public Health Report was provided by Carrie Brumfield, Chief of Staff.</li> <li>Supplemental Directive, Natural Gas Leak at Aliso Canyon Storage Field         <ul> <li>The Southern California Gas Company (SoCal Gas) was directed to assist Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) in temporarily place school occupants in alternative facilities:</li></ul></li></ul>	

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		FOLLOW-UP
	Quarterly Report – Water Quality Monitoring of Small Water Systems  • DPH Environmental Health (EH) provided a quarterly report to the Board on its water quality monitoring of small water systems:  • Report summarizes water quality findings in small water systems throughout the Los Angeles County (LAC)  • Small water system is defined by the California Health and Safety Code  • EH continues to work with seven (7) water systems to achieve compliance with the State's Drinking Water Standards	
	Network for a Healthy California Grant  • An annual report on the Network-LHD grant:  ○ A nutrition grant from the Department of Agriculture  ○ Community/Media Events  - Values of Carbohydrates and Protein  • Trainings and nutrition:  ○ Training conducted at about 232 schools  - Reaching about 150,000 children  • Update provides updates on progress including milestones and highlights achieved during year 3:  ○ Infrastructure/Program Development  ○ Policy, Systems, and Environmental Change  ○ County Nutrition Action Partnership	
	Food Facility Grading System  • DPH - Conduct thorough reviews of the retail food facility grading system in LAC:  ○ Provide report of its findings and recommendations to the Board  ○ Assessment of current grading factors/ Methodology  ○ Review of grading systems used in other jurisdictions  • Most recent activity done by PH:  ○ On-line survey for the general public on restaurants  - Obtain history on restaurant violations and quick response  - Grading type on restaurants	

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	Commissioner Bholat thanked Ms. Brumfield for the report. She welcomed any thoughts/questions from attendees present at the PHC meeting.	
	Commissioner Champommier indicated that obtaining a quick response on the grading history of a restaurant was a great idea.	
	Commissioner Bholat asked who would be responsible for inspecting the temperature of food being delivered from a restaurant and DPH's involvement.	
	Ms. Brumfield stated Environmental Health (EH) is working on inspecting the temperature of food being delivered from a restaurants.	
	Commissioner Bholat asked Ms. Brumfield about the gas leak and EH's relationship with the Gas Companies and the meets of their pipes.	
	Ms. Brumfield stated PH works closely with the State however is something that is it is primarily handled by the State.	
	Commissioner Bholat asked about consumer knowledge in terms of prevention and the safety of communities in California, and the maintenance for drinking water.	
	Ms. Brumfield stated there are a couple of bills currently in the State working on this specific matter.	
	Commissioner Bholat thanked Ms. Brumfield for her comments.	
	Dr. Kim-Farley reported the ending of the Ebola outbreak. He stated there were about 11,000 deaths between 2013 and 2015. He announced Dr. Green and the upcoming presentation on the PH Laboratories (Lab). He stated the LAC PH Lab was one of the first fifteen Labs in the United States actually able to detect Ebola.	
	Commissioner Bholat thanked Dr. Kim-Farley for his update and congratulated the Lab and all staff present.	

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<u>III.</u>	Presentation: Update on Public Health Laboratories	Dr. Nicole Green, Director Public Health Laboratories.  Dr. Green welcomed and thanked the Commission for the opportunity to present/provide an update of the PH Laboratory (PHL) activities. Dr. Green also stated a brief tour of the Lab would be provided after the Lab's presentation.  PHL Core Functions and Capabilities – Eleven (11)  • Core PHL functions and capabilities are distinctly different from clinical labs:  □ Disease Prevention, Control, and Surveillance □ Integrated Data Management/Reference and Specialized Testing □ Environmental Health and Protection/Food Safety □ Laboratory Improvement and Regulation/Policy Development □ Public Health Preparedness and Response □ Public Health Related Research/Training and Education □ Partnerships and Communication  Dr. Green stated that the PHL Core Functions and capabilities are established by the Centers for Disease and Control and the Association of Public Health Labs.	
		She stated the PHL performs many diagnostic and surveillance testing. Dr. Green also stated that toxic testing often performed in patient populations have different capabilities compared to most clinical laboratories including the ability to test for veterinary sample, food samples, and certain types of emergency preparedness tests like Ebola.  PH Laboratory Stakeholders  Public Health Laboratory System (PHL System) consists of all the participants in public health testing, including those who initiate testing and those who ultimately use the test results.  Primary stakeholders and partners that make up the Local PHL System are those directly involved in creating and using laboratory data:  Epidemiologists, first responders, and environmental professionals External different plans and providers  Community based providers (Provide STD testing)	

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	Ocher local public health professionals and laboratories Other local public health professionals and laboratories  Dr. Green stated that the PHL serves a number of external different plans and providers, primarily serving the Department of PH and LAC.  Role of the Local PHL  Monitor essential components of the Local PHL System and assure that accurate results are reported in a manner that assures and effective public health response.  Role of the local PHL differs from the State PHL: Provide and prioritize testing at the site of patient care and/or address local environmental issues Support the mission of local public health departments Serve as surge capacity for State PHLs, particularly for emergency response Work as a team with investigators, inspectors, community, and public health professionals to provide rapid and relevant responses to community needs Maintain strong ties and proximity to the community we serve  Accreditation and Certification  Maintain accreditation and certification by different agencies to be able to operate the PHL: Provide diagnostic and environmental testing PHL has been built on the core value of Service: State of California Department of Health Services - Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program (ELAP) Meth Testing – Under the Industrial Hygiene (AIHA) Laboratory Field Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Greatest asset (To deliver and ensure world-class analytical testing)	

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	Strategic Plan Goals  • To improve and protect public health through the provision of information from timely, cost effective, and sophisticated testing:  • Fiscal Accountability  • Development of Marketing Plan and Business Processes  • Operational Effectiveness  • Expansion of Partnerships and Comprehensive PHL Services  • Recognized nationally by the Association of PH Laboratories  • Communicable Disease and Control (CDC)  - State Laboratories (Leader at the local level providing PHL Services	
	Laboratory Organizational Structure  • Organizational structure of the PHL (two areas):  o The administrative operational area/Technical area of the Lab  o Five main divisions of the Lab:  - HIV/AIDS Unit  - Mycology TB/Epidemiologist Units  - Bacteriology/Parasitology Units  - Emergency Response – Biological Chemical Terrorism  - Environmental Toxicology Chemistry	
	<ul> <li>Environmental Toxicology Lab</li> <li>Established in 1973 by the Department of Health Services as a full service laboratory offering a wide range of analytical and consulting services:         <ul> <li>Moved to ACWM in 1982 (DPH in 2015)</li> <li>Full-scale environmental testing Lab only in California at the County level</li> </ul> </li> <li>Provide comprehensive analytical testing of drinking water, waste water, soil, produce, and solid material samples for over 300 substances</li> <li>Core workload – 16 tests:         <ul> <li>Approximately 45,000 test results annually</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Toxicology lab performs microbiology testing but mainly:         <ul> <li>Environmental organic and inorganic chemistry</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<ul> <li>Testing of drinking water, waste water, and storm water</li> <li>Testing different types of fruit and vegetables</li> <li>Ensure is pesticide free</li> </ul>	
	Budget and Staffing  The Lab is the largest program in CDCP with about 138 full-time County staff:  Grant funded contract staff/Biowatch DHS staff  Laboratory budget funding is received from different grants:  Measure B, Grants, Fees, OtherNCC and DHSP	
	PHL Workload – About 580 Tests are Performed Annually  • Approximately 80% tests performed are STI related:  o Molecular STI o Serology/Virology o TB/Mycology o BacT/Parasitology o Molecular Epidemiology o Environmental/Food o Emergency Response/Blood Lead	
	Quantiferon Expansion  • Historical QFT Workload Statistics:  o High volume of testing in TB infection  o Testing done at the environmental toxicology lab  o Excel in TB testing  - Large number of TB outbreaks in homeless people  • The PH Lab was awarded a grant to expend Quantiferon:  o Provide additional testing  - Expand to at least 1000 tests per month at homeless shelters and clinics that operate in downtown Los Angeles  - Partner with Community Health Services, DHS Hospitals, and smaller clinics	

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	Quality Systems Approach  • Developed by the Clinical Laboratories Standard Institute:  o Three Key Areas  - Quality  - Safety  - Efficiency	
	Ebola Preparedness  First PH Lab in CA to implement Ebola PCR Testing:  Performed Ebola testing for other jurisdictions  Fax agreements in place with other PHLs  Established World Courier account  Packing and shipping workshops for sentinel labs  Completed OSHA training for PAPR donning/doffing  Participated in departmental table-top exercises  Drills and exercises with Ebola Treatment Hospitals  Provided reference consultation for laboratory issues  Press kit, phone conferences, and updated website  Hospital site visits/planning:  Lab specific site visits to different Ebola Treatment Centers and Hospitals  Kaiser Sunset  Assist Kaiser Physicians with lab testing  UCLA, LAC+USC, CHLA, and Cedars Sinai  Trained physicians on BSL-3 level PPE for deployment  EVD PUI field assessment protocol  Screening and laboratory testing for pregnant Ebola survivor  Work closely with the Emergency Response Program:  Develop an Ebola Virus Disease Program	
	What Have We Learned?  • Value of Teamwork:	

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	<ul> <li>How to communicate and operate in coordinated effort with stakeholders, community partners, and Fireman</li> <li>Improved relationships with clinical partners</li> <li>Importance of cross-training staff</li> <li>Need for more risk assessments/Safety improvements</li> <li>Improved planning and rapid after-action reports/hot wash</li> <li>Gained field experience with packaging specimens</li> </ul>	
	Notable Outbreaks and Investigations  • Most investigations are done in conjunction with the Communicable Disease Control Program:  • Endoscope and ERCP health-care related infections  - Cedars Sinai, UCLA, and Huntington Memorial  • Legionella, Norovirus, Measles  • Salmonella, DoD Anthrax Recalls, Plague	
	Accomplishments (2015) – DPH Quality Award  • Safety, quality and efficiency:  • LRN-B Advanced Laboratory Status  • Grant awards for CRE surveillance and TB projects  • Vet lab space for West Nile Virus bird surveillance  • Food Safety workgroups and guidelines development  • Critical role in assisting programs/departments with lab testing  • Training and continuing education workshops for labs and providers  • 5 new PH microbiologists trained and passed certification exam  • Training and mentoring for interns, resident/fellows, and volunteers	
	New Tests Introduced in 2015  • Manufacturer/Test Name/Analyte:  o Abbott ViroSeq HIV-1 Genotyping o Abbott Real Time HIV-1 Viral Load Quantitative NAAT o Abbott Architect Hepatitis B virus surface antibody o Binax Now Rapid Malaria antigen test/Dept. of Defense Ebola PCR o CDC Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus	

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	New Diagnostic Tests in Progress  Most tests to be implemented in 2016:  Chemistry Unit (Clinical Chemistry)  Molecular STD and HIV Units  HSV 1/2 PCR, HCV viral load, HCV genotyping, HCV qual NAAT, and HIV qual NAAT  BT unit  Brucella speciation PCR, CDC Ebola PCRs, and Measles PCR  Waters/Dairy unit (Petri-film for dairy testing)  Immunoserology Unit  Automated serology screening for VPD  Treponemal CIA/Dengue serology  HIV 1/2 differentiation  TB/Mycology unit  New methods for TB processing and sample collection  Maldi-TOF MS for yeast  Molecular Epidemiology  Multiplex respiratory and gastrointestinal panels  Influenza B subtyping  WGS for food-borne pathogens	
	Facility Improvements  Completed Projects:  Flooring/PFGE unit mobile laboratory furniture  New office furniture/cubicles/High-dentistry storage system  Landscaping/warehouse air conditioner  In-Progress Projects  Chiller replacement for HVAC system/Steam line re-connection  Enhanced campus security and water sensors  ETL facility improvements, inventory system/Boiler improvements	
	Projects for 2016  • Quality Assurance/Administration:	

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	<ul> <li>Customer satisfaction survey</li> <li>Preparation for CAP accreditation and Tier One Select Agent Certification</li> <li>Updated fee schedule and revenue cycle management/enhancement</li> <li>Online test catalog and website improvements</li> <li>Information technology</li> <li>Client interfaces and interface migration/CHS EHR interface</li> <li>Sunquest laboratory information systems upgrade/Staffing</li> <li>Emergency preparedness</li> <li>COOP planning and MOUs/Risk Assessments</li> </ul>	
	The Outlook Ahead - Regionalization  • Down to 34 LPHLs serving 61 health jurisdictions  • Issues at State PHL and local level labs:  • Multiple vacant and upcoming lab director vacancies  • Potential closures/Budget and staffing issues  • Service sharing models – For tests services:  • Competition for testing with hospital/commercial reference labs  • Low volume tests and service consolidation/Staff proficiency	
	Regional Assistance  CA Dept. of Public Health, U.S. Navy Medical Center,NV, AZ, HI SPHLs  San Bernardino County, San Diego County, Santa Clara County  Orange County, Ventura County, Kern County, Pasadena PH Department  Areas of assistance:  Emergency Preparedness/Food Testing/Salmonella Serotyping  Diagnostic and Surveillance Testing	
	Challenges and Areas of Support  Operational:  Ability to run the laboratories as a business/Information Technology  Workforce and HR/Administrative support  Environmental Toxicology Laboratory integration	

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	<ul> <li>Regionalization and service sharing/COOP planning</li> <li>Facilities issues including maintenance, space, and security</li> <li>Technical:         <ul> <li>Continuing loss of services at State Public Health Lab</li> <li>Training and new technology updates</li> <li>Maintaining competency for low volume tests</li> <li>Defining our role and testing niche</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	rozzow or
	Acknowledgements  • For the support and funding received through grants:  o Division of HIV and STD Programs/TB Control Program o Acute Communicable Disease Control Program o Immunization Program/Veterinary Public Health Program o Environmental Health Program/ Community Health Services o Emergency Preparedness and Response Program	
	Save the Date Presentation (May 12, 2016)  • LAC PH Laboratories - Laboratory Systems Improvement Program (L-SIP):  ○ Evaluate the performance of your program  ○ Develop systems improvements	
	Dr. Green thanked all that were present. She extended her invitation to the Laboratory Systems Improvement Program Presentation.	
	Commission Chair Crawford thanked Dr. Green and staff for an excellent presentation.	
	Commissioner Champommier asked the Lab about better plans in terms of integration with the Hospital.	
	Dr. Green stated that in terms of STD Prep testing, the Lab directly communicates all positive/negative results to the Division of HIV/STD programs. She indicated the laboratory will be working directly with HIV/STD on Hepatitis C testing.	

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	Commissioner Champommier thanked the Lab for their amazing work, leadership, and dedication.	
	Dr. Green indicated the importance on the Lab's continued services would be through proper training.	
	Dr. Kim-Farley expressed the need for an Assistant PH Lab Director. He indicated there are excellent PHD candidates with a strong PH Lab Director training that the Lab has not been able to hire.	
	Commission Chair Crawford thanked the Lab for all their hard work.	
	Dr. Green offered to communicate and provide additional information to the Commission on assistance needed in different areas of the Lab.	
	Commissioner Bholat asked about the Lab's involvement as representatives on Integration Advisory Board (IAB). Commissioner Bholat also requested an update on the Lab's challenges and areas of support.	
	Dr. Kim-Farley stated there is no involvement. He stated that due to the distinct needs for the clinical and PH Laboratories, it is best to keep the current agency's structure.	
	Commissioner Bholat congratulated the Lab. She mentioned the existence of the EH laboratory in South Gate, the STI, and the importance of the efficiencies and opportunities to perform HIV confirmatory testing. Commissioner Bholat asked about the proper handling of specimens and who will this be open to.	
	Dr. Green stated it would be open to all Stakeholders. She stated that the handling of specimens is also open to other Bureaus, new clients, Hospital systems, and people that the Lab interact with for feedback.	
	Commissioner Bholat thanked Dr. Green for her comments.	

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		Commission Chair Crawford thanked the Lab and staff for their presentation. Commission Chair Crawford stated the meeting will concur with a tour of the PH Laboratory directed by Dr. Green.	
<u>IV.</u>	<u>New Business</u>	Commission Chair Crawford postponed the Election of New PHC Officers to be discussed at the next PHC meeting in February 2016.  - Election/Nomination of Officers - Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Commission Chair Crawford by incoming Chair Shindy	
<u>V.</u>	<u>Motion</u>	Commissioner Champommier made a motion to assist the Laboratory on the different areas of support.  Commission Chair Crawford suggested in terms of recommendations, an agreement would be sufficient among the Commissioners unless Commissioner Champommier felt strongly about making a motion.  Commissioner Champommier stated he felt very strongly about making the motion.  The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bholat. All Commissioners in favor by saying "I".	
<u>VI.</u>	<u>Adjournment</u>	The meeting adjourned at approximately at 1:35 p.m., including the Lab's tour.	