

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
APRIL 14, 2016  
MINUTES**

**APPROVED  
5/12/16**

**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, Secretary\*  
Public Health Commission

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ADVISORS**

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

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

<b>TOPIC</b>	<b>DISCUSSION/FINDINGS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION/ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP</b>
<b><u>I. Call to Order</u></b>	<i>The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:35 a.m. by Commission Chair Crawford at the Central Public Health Library.</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<b><u>II. Announcements and Introductions</u></b>	<i>Introduction of Commissioners and guests were conducted.</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<b><u>III. Approval of Minutes</u></b>	<b>MOTION: APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 10, 2016 MINUTES</b>	<i>Commissioner Dowling entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes for (March 10, 2016). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bholat, all in favor by saying "I".</i>
<b><u>IV. Public Health Report</u></b>	<i>The Public Health Report was distributed to the PH Commissioners. Commissioners were encouraged to review the PH report accordingly.</i>	

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<p><b><u>V. Presentation: Tobacco Control and Prevention Program Update</u></b></p>	<p>Mr. Montgomery Messex provided the Commission with an update on Tobacco Control and Prevention Program (TCPP).</p> <p>Mission - Lower Tobacco related death, disease and disability in Los Angeles County (LAC).</p> <p>Vision - A tobacco-Free LAC</p> <p>Approach - Change the social norms of communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a social and legal climate where tobacco is less desirable, less acceptable, and less accessible.</li> </ul> <p>Smoking Is The Leading Cause of Preventable Death in The US</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More deaths are caused each year by tobacco use (443,000 deaths) than HIV, Illegal drug use, alcohol use, motor vehicle injuries, suicides, and murders combined.</li> </ul> <p>Impact of Tobacco Use in LAC - Under 1 million adults still smoke</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoking costs more than \$4.4 billion dollars per year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ \$2.3 billion direct medical costs</li> <li>○ \$2.0 billion indirect costs (lost productivity)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Each year, 1 out of every 7 deaths is caused by cigarette smoking</li> <li>• Top five causes of death are associated with tobacco use</li> </ul> <p>Tobacco Control in LAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1988 California Tobacco Tax and Health Promotion Act Proposition 99 (Prop 99) increased the state cigarette tax by 25¢ per pack.</li> <li>• Prop 99 led to the first statewide tobacco control program, the California Tobacco Control &amp; Prevention (CTCP) Program.</li> <li>• CTCP funded 61 local public health departments throughout California, including LAC Tobacco Control &amp; Prevention Program.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ State</li> <li>○ - Prop 99 (2<sup>nd</sup> year of 3 year scope of work approximately \$2.2M this year - Decreasing 2016-17)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• CDC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ MUH Study: \$400K per year through August 2016</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Contracts (Prop 99 Project) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 4 community based organizations - \$100,000 per contract</li> </ul> </li> <li>• TCPP Priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reduce youth access to ALL tobacco products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Tobacco Retailer Licensing (TRL)</li> <li>- E-Cigarettes in TRL</li> <li>- Healthy Retail Initiative</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reduce exposure to secondhand smoke: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Smoke-free multi-unit housing (Housing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Housing Authority for City of LA (HACLA)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Increase access to cessation services</li> </ul> <p>Priority Area – Youth Access - Tobacco Retailer Licensing (TRL)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Four Community Based Organizations using the policy adoption model: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Valley Community Healthcare – W. Hollywood &amp; Santa Clarita</li> <li>○ Day One - Pomona &amp; Covina</li> <li>○ Glendale Adventist Medical Center – Monrovia &amp; Alhambra</li> <li>○ Asian American Drug Abuse Program – Bellflower &amp; Downey</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Tobacco Control Ordinances: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Jurisdiction and Policies Adopted</li> </ul> </li> <li>• E-Cigarettes in TRL: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TCPP provides technical assistance to cities in Los Angeles County interested in enhancing existing Tobacco Retail License Programs to cover the sale of e-cigarettes</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Healthy Retail Initiative</li> <li>• Healthy Stores for a Healthy Community Retail Campaign</li> <li>• First statewide survey done in 2013 on retail environment exploring tobacco, alcohol and food.</li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formed a Healthy Retail Workgroup as part of the Coalition for Tobacco Free LA County – partners include Nutrition and Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) Program.</li> </ul> <p>Priority Area (Decrease Secondary Smoke Exposure)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoke-free multi-unit housing:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Housing Authority for the City of Los Angeles (HACLA) adopted a smoke-free policy for all of its properties December 17, 2015                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Policy Development Workgroup</li> <li>- Public Health Presentations and Education</li> <li>- Community Education Campaign to educate residents about policy</li> <li>- Connecting HACLA with Cessation resources</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Secondhand Smoke Complaints:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ TCPP is responsible for fielding and responding to secondhand smoke complaints related to multi-unit housing and the California Smoke Free Workplace Law                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide public health educational materials to business or property management</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Priority Area (Increase Access to Cessation Services)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TCPP promotes the use of the California Smokers Helpline 1-800-No-BUTTS</li> <li>• TCPP provides technical assistance to agencies/organizations including behavioral health facilities interested in integrating tobacco assessment and cessation referrals into treatment</li> </ul> <p>Los Angeles County Health Agency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategic Priority: Align and integrate population health with personal health strategies by creating healthy community environments and strengthening linkages between community resources/clinical services:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <u>Goal 3</u>: Expand access to evidence-based tobacco cessation treatment for priority populations                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lead by Chronic Disease &amp; Injury Prevention (CDIP)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TCPP currently works with the health agency to better assess/evaluate referrals:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Improve documentation process for medical charts</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Develop trainings for positions and other health care providers:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To provide referrals to the smokers health line</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>State Legislative Updates – Assembly Bills (AB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AB 7 X2 – Smoke-free workplace:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Expand the prohibition on smoking in a place of employment to include an owner-operated business. Eliminate most of the specified exemptions that permit smoking in certain work environments, such as hotel lobbies, bars and taverns, banquet rooms, warehouse facilities, and employee break rooms.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• AB 9 X2 – Tobacco free schools and county offices of education:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “State Department of Education to require that all school districts, charter schools, and county offices of education receiving funding under the program adopt and enforce a tobacco-free campus policy prohibiting the use of products containing tobacco and nicotine.”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• AB 11 X2 – Annual licensing fee:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Require for calendar years beginning on and after January 1, 2016, every retailer to file an application for renewal of a retailer’s license accompanied with a fee of \$265 per retail location, in the form and manner prescribed by the board.”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• SB 5 X2– REGULATE e-cigarettes LIKE TOBACCO:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Change the STAKE Act’s definition of “tobacco products” to include electronic devices, such as electronic cigarettes, that deliver nicotine or other vaporized liquids, and make furnishing the tobacco product to a minor a misdemeanor.”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• SB 7 X2 – Tobacco to 21:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Extend the applicability of those provisions [STAKE Act] to persons under 21 years of age. The bill would authorize the State Department of Public Health to conduct random, onsite</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

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	<p style="text-align: center;">sting inspections of tobacco product retailers with the assistance of persons under 21 years of age.”</p> <p>TCCP is currently collecting signatures from supporters to potentially raise tax on tobacco.</p> <p>Commission Chair Crawford asked about discussions from community activists and/or Policy makers moving forward with raising tax on tobacco, and has this become a priority.</p> <p>Commissioner Dowling asked about TCCP’s knowledge of Hookah pipes.</p> <p>Mr. Messex stated that Hookah is a water based pipe with a sticky formulation and tobacco flavoring going deeper into the lungs with more exposure to nicotine. He stated Hookah bars are located around colleges targeting young adults.</p> <p>Commissioner Dowling asked if Hookah was taxable.</p> <p>Mr. Messex responded by stating that Hookah is taxable. He stated Hookah is being used among young adults not realizing the danger and harm elements.</p> <p>TCCP (Ms. Aragon), expressed the need to address Marijuana, e-cigarettes, and cigarette issues locally and at the state level.</p> <p>Commissioner Champommier asked in terms of community engagement efforts, was this through community education or directly with the City.</p> <p>Mr. Messex responded it is a community education process educating City elected officials on tobacco. The goal is to potentially get policies adopted in terms of tobacco use. Mr. Messex also stated community education and presentations are offered to different organizations.</p>	<p>TCCP will provide the Commission with an update on the status of raising the price/tax on tobacco.</p>

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	<p>Commissioner Champommier commented on the importance of funding for tobacco education.</p> <p>Ms. Aragon indicated Prop 99 funds for local health agencies come from the State. Ms. Aragon indicated California has one of the lowest smoking rates. She stated that funding opportunities specific for tobacco are limited. Ms. Aragon stated there is a lower prevalence among youth up to 21 years of age. Groups 21-30 in the highest prevalent.</p> <p>Commissioner Bholat asked for information/data regarding the distribution of Prop 99 funds used for local health agencies at the County level. She also asked about data available that would show diversity and the age group of cigarette smokers in communities. Commissioner Bholat expressed the need for funding and the ability to educate youth about Hookah bars, e-cigarettes and Marijuana use.</p> <p>Commission Chair Crawford commented on large cigars. She stated there is a demographic in black males in their 30's and 40's who smoke cigars. She asked TCPP about any major reports on this kind of age group.</p> <p>Mr. Messex stated cigars are the cause of mouth, tongue, and lung cancer. One cigar is equivalent to one pack of cigarettes. He stated cigars are not regulated by the FDA.</p> <p>Commissioner Dowling expressed the need to concentrate on tobacco and addiction control.</p> <p>Commission Chair Crawford thanked Tobacco Control and Prevention Program for their presentation.</p>	<p>TCPP will provide the Commission with reports regarding Prop 99 distribution funds and the diversity and age group of smokers in communities.</p> <p>TCPP will provide the Commission with a demographic and age group of large cigar smokers.</p>
<b><u>VI. New Business</u></b>	<p><b>MOTION:</b> Commissioner Champommier entertained a motion to nominate Commissioner Bholat as Chairperson, and Commissioner Dowling as Vice-Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Chair Crawford, all in favor by saying "I".</p>	

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	<p>Newly elected Chairperson Bholat thanked outgoing Chairperson Crawford for all of her hard work and dedication to the Commission. Chairperson Bholat presented Commission Chair Crawford with a certificate of appreciation.</p> <p>Commissioner Chair Crawford thanked all in the Commission for their support.</p>	
<b><u>VII. Adjournment</u></b>	The meeting adjourned at approximately at 11:45 a.m.	