

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2016  
MINUTES**

**APPROVED**

**10/13/16**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Michelle Ann Bholat, M.D., M.P.H., Chairperson\***

Patrick Dowling, M.D., M.P.H., Vice-Chair \*

Jean G. Champommier, Ph.D.\*

Crystal D. Crawford, J.D.\*

Arnold Steinberg, M.B.A.\*\*

**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/<br/>FOLLOW-UP</b>  |
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| <b><u>I. Call to Order</u></b>                    | <i>The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:35 a.m. by Chairperson Bholat, at the Central Public Health Center.</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 MINUTES FOR AUGUST 11, 2016.</b>  | <i>Commissioner Vice Chair Dowling entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes for (August 11, 2016). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Champommier, all in favor.</i> |
| <b><u>IV. Public Health Report</u></b>            | <p><i>Carrie Brumfield, Chief of Staff for the Department of Public Health (DPH) Chief Deputy Director's Office, provided the Commission with the Public Health (PH) Report and discussed PH activities..</i></p> <p><b>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Awards \$24 M To Five (5) Jurisdictions To Fight Zika</b></p> <p><i>Ms. Brumfield stated that the purpose for funds is to establish, enhance, and maintain information gathering systems to detect microcephaly and other birth</i></p> |  |

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|              | <p>defects caused by Zika virus. She stated funds were awarded to Chicago, Houston, New York City, Philadelphia, and Los Angeles County (LAC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance capacity development through partner collaboration and infrastructure improvements</li> <li>• Participate in CDC data reporting</li> <li>• Expand access to examination of health and monitoring of developmental outcomes of children born to women with positive Zika virus test results</li> </ul> <p><b>Existing Efforts And Best Practices To Support Healthy Food Retail In Underserved Neighborhoods</b></p> <p>Ms. Brumfield stated DPH was instructed by the Board to report back on existing efforts to support healthy food sales in retail stores. The city of Minneapolis became the first city in the nation to adopt an ordinance that requires food stores as a condition of obtaining and maintaining their business license, to stock certain categories of healthful foods. She stated the Department of Health and Family Support operates the Healthy Corner Store Program.</p> <p><b>Increasing Vaccination Rates Among Groups At Risk For Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD)</b></p> <p>Ms. Brumfield stated the Board instructed DPH to report back on actions taken for the IMD outbreak in Southern California. She stated DPH established a DPH response team, developed a response action plan, and requested epidemiologic assistance from CDC. Purpose is to provide outreach to community members, healthcare providers, and laboratory testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create/launch a vaccination campaign focused on increasing access to vaccine</li> </ul> <p><b>Illegal Trafficking Of Prescription Opioids</b></p> <p>Ms. Brumfield stated DPH was instructed by the Board to report back on current impacts of opioids and prescriptions of such opioids in LAC. Ms. Brumfield stated a Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) has been established to enhance grant programs to promote treatment of opioids and to expand prevention and education:</p> |   |

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|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opioids, sedatives, and stimulants are among the top three (3) most commonly abused substances by Americans 14 years and older</li> <li>• An estimated 2.1 million people in the U.S. suffer from substance use disorder</li> </ul> <p><b>Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Standards Process</b></p> <p>Ms. Donna Sze provided the Commission with an overview on PHAB. She indicated PHAB is based out of domains that pertain to a broad group of public health services. PHAB applies to all health departments - Tribal, state, local, and territorial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investigate health problems and EH PH hazards to protect communities</li> <li>• Engage in communities to identify and address health problems</li> <li>• Promote strategies to improve access to health care</li> </ul>  |   |
| <p><b><u>V. Presentation: Zika, West Nile Virus, and Invasive Meningococcal Disease Outbreak Update</u></b></p> | <p><b><i>Dr. Benjamin Schwartz, Interim Director Acute Communicable Disease Control (ACDC), provided the Commission with an update on Zika Virus, West Nile Virus, and Invasive Meningococcal Disease Outbreak in Los Angeles County (LAC).</i></b></p> <p>Dr. Schwarz stated the key activities of ACDC include: surveillance for reportable infections and syndromes, outbreak and case investigations, consultation to health care providers, collaborative prevention programs, emergency and BT preparedness, and public health research. He stated ACDC maintains a number of infrastructures used throughout DPH, as well as a syndrome and surveillance system used at over 50 hospitals in their Emergency Department (ER).</p> <p><b>West Nile Virus (WNV) Infection In LAC 2015</b></p> <p>Dr. Schwartz stated the WNV was introduced in 2003. He stated the cycle for infection is between birds and mosquitos, with incidental human infection. Disease generally occurs from June through November:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Higher risk on older adults and persons with underlying disease</li> <li>• Most reported cases are of neuroinvasive disease <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Paralysis, Meningitis, and Encephalitis</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |   |

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|              | <p><b>Location of WNV Infections &amp; By City Residence In LAC 2014-15</b></p> <p>Dr. Schwartz indicated that the greatest concentration of WNV cases existed between 2014 and 2015. He stated DPH/ACDC works closely with the local media to inform people living in those communities and prevent future infections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2014 – Los Angeles 45, Whittier 16, and Lakewood 6</li> <li>• 2015 – Los Angeles 66, Whittier 13, and Lakewood 7</li> </ul> <p><b>WNV Disease Updates And Changes For 2016</b></p> <p>Dr. Schwartz stated in 2016, there were 57 cases of WNV reported in LAC. He stated weekly changes have been updated by ACDC to focus on WNV disease and to highlight other Arboviral diseases. Weekly updates are posted on the DPH website.</p> <p><b>WNV And Zika Differences/Characteristics</b></p> <p>Dr. Schwartz stated that persons currently at risk for WNV are LAC residents and older adults with reduced immunity. He stated those at risk of the Zika virus are travelers to affected countries, and infants to women infected while pregnant. There are two (2) different type of mosquitos that spread the disease:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Culex mosquitos causing WNV infection. These locate themselves in swimming pools that are not maintained (known as green pools)</li> <li>• The Aedes mosquitos causing Zika virus. These breed in small containers located on back yards</li> </ul> <p><b>Zika Virus Infection - Epidemiology and Clinical Characteristics</b></p> <p>Dr. Schwartz stated Zika cases are associated with travel to other countries. Clinical characteristics of Zika infection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maternal-fetal infection may cause microcephaly, and vision and hearing defects in some of those infected</li> <li>• Illness generally mild lasting one (1) week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Fever, rash, arthralgia and conjunctivitis</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |   |

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|              | <p><b>Support For Mosquito-Borne Disease Prevention And Control</b></p> <p>Dr. Schwartz informed the Commission about federal funds awarded for Zika and WNV. Funding specifically towards MCAH and PH Lab for: Zika pregnancy registry, LAC birth defects surveillance, Zika preparedness and response, and recovery planning.</p> <p><b>Mosquito-Borne Virus Disease Prevention And Control Action Plan</b></p> <p>Purpose is to serve as a roadmap for DPH prevention and control efforts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate coordination between DPH programs, Vector Control Agencies (VCA), and other partners</li> <li>• Identify and build synergies in public health actions for different mosquito-borne diseases</li> </ul> <p><b>Arboviral Disease Prevention And Control Strategies</b></p> <p>Dr. Schwartz indicated there are seven (7) strategies included in the Arboviral disease prevention plan: Surveillance and case investigation, laboratory testing, vector control, provider education and technical assistance, community outreach and education, communications, and planning and preparedness.</p> <p><b>Zika Case And Aedes Mosquito Locations</b></p> <p>Dr. Schwartz stated there are several locations in Miami Florida where the Zika disease has spread locally by mosquitos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPH ACDC – Ensure infection does not spread in LAC</li> <li>• Report each Zika case to VCA to investigate, abate, and educate</li> </ul> <p><b>Mosquito-Borne Virus Disease Resources Audio</b></p> <p>Dr. Schwartz informed the Commission about ACDC’s concern for homeless people, and of ways to protect themselves from infection. He stated ACDC works on addressing these issues and focuses on distribution of materials for education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zika Virus: <a href="http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/zika/">www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/zika/</a></li> <li>• West Nile Virus: <a href="http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/vectorwestnile.htm">www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/acd/vectorwestnile.htm</a></li> </ul> |   |

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|              | <p><b>Zika Planning And Preparedness/ DPH External Collaborations</b></p> <p>DPH currently works on preparedness plans and prevention activities to make sure local spread does not occur. Dr. Schwartz stated there are many programs involved in DPH as well as a large number of external collaborations including other county programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACDC, CMS, CHS, EPRP, EH, MCAH, Ph Lab and VCA</li> </ul> <p><b>Invasive Meningococcal Disease (IMD) Update/Timeline</b></p> <p>Dr. Schwartz indicated the IMD outbreak was recognized in June 2016 by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) among Men who have Sex with Men (MSM). He stated DPH along with other health departments work closely on investigating the ongoing IMD outbreak:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine for MSM and vaccination of all persons with HIV infection</li> <li>• CDC EIS officer to assist with investigation and make recommendations</li> <li>• An ICS command structure for DPH Immunization Program, Community Health Services, ACDC, Public Health Lab, DPH Leadership</li> </ul> <p><b>LAC Meningococcal Disease Cases 2016</b></p> <p>Dr. Schwartz indicated there are 15 confirmed cases of IMD - Eight (8) among MSM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Median age is 35 (16-74) - No deaths to date</li> <li>• No unifying epidemiological links identified among LAC</li> </ul> <p><b>Invasive Meningococcal Outbreak Case Definitions</b></p> <p>Many cities around the world have had an IMD outbreak among gay men. Confirmed IMD outbreak – date of onset since March 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Epidemiological link to Los Angeles County, Orange County, and Long Beach</li> <li>• Unknown Epi links</li> </ul> |   |

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|  | <p><b>Prevention And Outreach</b></p> <p>Dr. Schwartz provided the Commission with information on the active vaccine campaign outreach by multiple jurisdictions to gay/MSM population. He stated the vaccine is free to all MSM during outbreak regardless of insurance status (uninsured, underinsured, and insured):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vaccine provided in all three (3) health departments</li> <li>• Vaccine provided at specifically targeted events with a large MSM population and through large MSM providers</li> <li>• Communications and outreach campaigns available through Traditional media, Social media (FB, twitter, etc.), Hookup apps like Grindr, etc.</li> </ul> <p>Dr. Schwartz stated ACDC does surveillance for Hepatitis C. A reporting system exists from hospitals and Labs around the County. He stated ACDC currently works on categorizing a report for Hepatitis C.</p> <p>Commission Chair Bholat thanked ACDC for their presentation.</p> |   |
| <b><u>VI.</u></b> <b><u>PUBLIC COMMENT</u></b> | <p>Ms. Lolita Namocatcat of the Asian Pacific Counseling and Treatment Center expressed her concern regarding dumpsters in communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To implement fines for those abusing dumpsters in communities</li> <li>• To enforce codes for the clean-up of dumpsters, yards, and empty lots in communities</li> </ul>   |   |
| <b><u>VII.</u></b> <b><u>NEW BUSINESS</u></b>  | <p>Commission Chair Bholat requested a future presentation from ACDC to discuss the different approaches of Hepatitis C in LAC.</p> <p>A future presentation to the Commission will be in 2017.</p>   |   |
| <b><u>VIII.</u></b> <b><u>ADJOURMENT</u></b>   | <p>The meeting adjourned at approximately at 11:44 a.m.</p>   |   |