

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
October 12, 2017
MINUTES**

**APPROVED
11/9/17**

COMMISSIONERS

Patrick Dowling, M.D., M.P.H., Chairperson*
Jean G. Champommier, Ph.D., Vice-Chair *
Crystal D. Crawford, J.D.**
Kelly Colopy, M.P.P. *

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, Medical Director**

Sara Guizar, Secretary*
Public Health Commission

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ADVISORS

Cynthia Harding, Chief Deputy Director*
Heather Northover, Senior Advisor*

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

| TOPIC | DISCUSSION/FINDINGS | RECOMMENDATION/ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP |
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| <u>I. Call to Order</u> | <i>The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Chairperson Dowling, at the Health Services Building, at 313 N. Figueroa St., Suite 804, Los Angeles, CA.</i> | <i>Information only.</i> |
| <u>II. Announcements and Introductions</u> | <i>Introduction of Commissioners and guests were conducted. Introduction of the new PH Commissioner for the 4th Supervisorial District also took place.</i> | <i>Information only.</i> |
| <u>III. Approval of Minutes</u> | MOTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR May 11, 2017 | <i>Commissioner Champommier entertained a motion to approve the meeting minutes for May 11, 2017. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Colopy, all in favor.</i> |
| <u>IV. Public Health Report</u> | Ms. Cynthia Harding provided the Commission with the Public Health (PH) Report, and discussed Department of Public Health (DPH) activities. LOS ANGELES COUNTY HEALTH AGENCY LAUNCHES CENTER FOR HEALTH EQUITY Ms. Northover informed the Commission that the Center for Health Equity event was launched on October 10, 2017, at the Douglas F. Dollarhide Community | |

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Center in Compton California. She stated the event was attended by approximately 120 people including Directors from several county Departments. Activities and small group discussion sessions were offered. The center's focus will be on five priorities: infant mortality, sexually transmitted infections, environmental justice, healthy neighborhoods, and cultural and linguistic competency. Ms. Northover also stated that the center's approach is to ensure cultural and linguistic competency throughout the health agency, and the needs of clients/residents in communities.

FOOD INSECURITY REMAINS A CONCERN IN LA COUNTY

Ms. Harding provided the Commission with a report on Food Insecurity in Los Angeles County (LAC). She stated this was in collaboration with the Regional Food Bank and the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS). The report highlights a large number of LAC residents suffering from food insecurity. DPH and Environmental Health are currently working with collaborative organizations on ways to reduce food waste and assist people in donating food safely to those in need. Ms. Harding also stated that DPH will focus on solutions for getting people enrolled in the CalFresh program, and in ways to expand partnership and outreach with DPSS and health care partners.

SUPERVISOR HAHN AND PUBLIC HEALTH WARN RESIDENTS THAT "IT'S NOT JUST A BITE"

Ms. Harding informed the Commission about a press conference held on September 2017 by Supervisor Janice Hahn and DPH, to provide an update on increases in cases of West Nile Virus, and the continued risk of Zika Virus in LAC. She stated in collaboration with the Vector Control Districts, DPH launched two large initiatives: 1) Work around raising awareness about the West Nile virus and the continued risk of Zika virus; 2) Countywide mosquito-borne disease PH campaign "It's not just a bite". She stated DPH deployed about 220 staff across the county to deliver packets to over 20,000 local business and community buildings to raise awareness about West Nile virus, about the dangers, and how people can easily protect themselves from mosquito-borne diseases.

HEPATITIS A PREVENTION AND RESPONSE ACTION PLAN

DPH was instructed by the Board to provide information on current efforts to prevent significant increases of hepatitis A in LAC, as well as the planned

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| | <p>response should an outbreak occur. Ms. Harding informed the Commission about 12 cases reported in LAC, and about the enormous outbreak in San Diego and Santa Cruz California. She stated thousands of people have been vaccinated by DPH staff and outreach teams, particularly offering vaccines not only to the homeless but also to people working with homeless individuals. Ms. Harding also stated that DPH works with the Substance Abuse Prevention and Control providers to educate them about the risk of hepatitis A.</p> <p>Commission Chair Dowling asked about the use of bleach and how that would prevent the spread of hepatitis A in the homeless community. He also asked about DPH's thoughts on integration, the high quality of services DPH has been providing, and any impacts.</p> <p>Ms. Harding stated clean-ups have been performed in the homeless community by the City of Los Angeles. Ms. Harding stated the integration has assisted DPH with effectiveness, the outreach efforts and being able to work with staff in all three departments, and the outreach events of Exide with 1,500 volunteers.</p> <p>INCREASING INSURANCE ENROLLMENT AND RETENTION</p> <p>Ms. Harding stated LAC was awarded a state grant to fund community partners working with DPH. The purpose is to ensure eligible candidates are enrolled, and to provide assistance to retain people with Medi-Cal benefits.</p> <p>UPDATE ON PROGRESS TO ABATE ELEVATED HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM LEVELS IN THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT</p> <p>Ms. Harding stated DPH continues to work actively with schools and business in the city of Paramount and with the South Coast Air Quality Management District to reduce the levels of Chromium in the community.</p> <p>Commission Chair Dowling thanked Ms. Harding for the PH report.</p> | |
| <p><u>V.</u> <u>Presentation:</u> <u>Veterinary – Public Health</u></p> | <p>Dr. Karen Ehnert Director, Veterinary Public Health, provided the Commission with an overview of the Veterinary program.</p> <p>VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH</p> <p>Dr. Ehnert stated that the vision of the Vet program is that residents of Los</p> | |

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Angeles County (LAC) are protected from zoonosis, and animals are free of reportable diseases. The mission is to take advantage of the relationships between human and animal health in order to promote a healthy community environment for LAC residents.

LEGALLY MANDATED DUTIES – RABIES CONTROL

Dr. Ehnert stated that the Vet program is responsible for Rabies control, and DPH is responsible for quarantine authority. Vet staff follows-up to 10,000 animal bites per year (about 600 pets are exposed to wildlife). She stated the Vet program is also responsible for rabies vaccine exemptions and there is no charge for rabies testing. Any animal can be picked up free of charge and tested to make sure that people and pets exposed to rabies get the protection needed.

ANIMAL IMPORTATION

Dr. Ehnert stated that the Vet program in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have been working with animal importation at the airports. She stated imported sick animals are examined by a veterinarian to detect any type of infection.

ANIMAL DISEASE SURVEILLANCE

Dr. Ehnert informed the Commission about the animal disease surveillance program where small animal practitioners and shelters report infectious diseases. The Vet program is involved with Active Surveillance for outbreak reports or unusual diseases - West Nile Virus (WNV):

- Collection of dead birds and samples (in collaboration with DPH Lab)
- About 75% of birds are tested for WNV in LAC
- Priority lists created to ensure reporting of all infectious diseases

DISASTER RESPONSE, ANIMAL RELATED

Dr. Ehnert stated that different counties and states created plans to control animal disease and outbreaks after Katrina. The Vet program helped coordinate an animal control health aspect, plans for a local animal response system, and for emergent shelters.

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2020 HEALTHY PETS AND HEALTHY FAMILIES (HPHF) INITIATIVE

Dr. Ehnert stated that the goal of HPHF is to improve human and animal health by collaborative interventions:

- One health initiative since 2011
- Community outreach
- Mentoring, student training

RABIES – CHALLENGES, SUCCESSES & VACCINES

Dr. Ehnert informed the Commission about the high levels of bat rabies clustering the Santa Clarita Valley (SCV). She stated many veterinarians are unaware of rabid bats in their community. The City of Santa Clarita has linked to DPH's Veterinary Public Health webpage, and local news help to inform and educate SCV residents about rabid bats in their community.

RABIES VACCINES EXEMPTIONS/RABIES EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP)

Dr. Ehnert stated it takes the Vet program about one hour to approve vaccine requests. She stated approval priority for rabies vaccinations is for pets with previous life threatening reactions, and serious immune diseases associated with the vaccine. The Vet program provides PEP for insured that do not have access to treatment. She stated protocols will be updated jointly in collaboration with Community Health Services (CHS) and CDC. CHS has agreed to provide PEP access for anyone having difficulty getting PEP from their physician. Dr. Ehnert also stated that only some cities and counties across the State require cats to be vaccinated.

H3N2 CANINE INFLUENZA

Emerged in Asia in 2007. A large outbreak was reported in the Chicago area in December 2015. Dr. Ehnert stated the H3N2 is quite different than human flu or any animal flu. In animals, dogs are contagious for up to 30 days or more, and the virus can spread weeks after recovery. Vaccine is available but not frequently used.

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FIRST, SECOND AND THIRD CLUSTERS

In March 2017, a respiratory outbreak among dogs rescued from Asia were reported by Vet program. 62 dogs were quarantined at 17 different locations by Vet staff. Dr. Ehnert stated the outbreak was contained. Dr. Ehnert informed the commission about another dog flu outbreak notification in early March 2017, with a positive flu test from a large rescue shelter facility in San Bernardino County. Quarantine was implemented on the facility:

- 91 dogs at the facility, 79 already adopted
- Outbreaks were contained

CHALLENGE – RESCUES BEYOND LAC

A Canine influenza outbreak was reported in Texas prior to the hurricane. Numerous rescued dogs and cats from shelters in Texas were transported to Southern California. Some with heartworm were also reported. A PH Vet webpage was created for new practices on animal importation and recommendations.

HEALTHY PETS HEALTHY FAMILIES (HPHF) INITIATIVE & PROJECTS

The Vet program has developed goals, objectives, and reports on the impact of both human and animal health. Dr. Ehnert stated that three health pet expos were conducted in the San Gabriel Valley area:

- Low cost services were provided (Information to get families insured)
- Participation from mental health and social workers
- Kits for dog-friendly walking groups
 - Obesity reports, Flea-borne typhus outreach

DOG KAP SURVEY 2016

Dr. Ehnert provided the Commission with information on a Pet owners survey created by the Vet program. The survey is based on HPHF's focus areas and tracks knowledge, attitudes, and practices of dog owners.

HEALTHY PET EXPO – ANNUAL ONE HEALTH EVENT

Dr. Ehnert informed the Commission about the one health yearly event at the Whitter Narrows Park. Services provided were sterilization and de-worming.

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She stated over 2000 attended from the public in 2016, and 671 pets were immunized in 2017.

FLEA-BORNE TYPHUS

Dr. Ehnert stated CDC notifies the Vet program about near human cases of Flea-Borne Typhus. She stated in collaboration with Human Surveillance, Veterinarian clinics are utilized as partners by the Vet program. The Vet program encourages veterinarians to provide their clients with Flea-Borne Typhus handouts and educate them about risks of Flea-Borne Typhus in their community.

FUTURE OF HPHF

Vet program works on reducing the hard to focus areas - 2020:

- Re-evaluation of initiative and Upcoming priorities
 - Better governance/better impact assessment
 - Pets and Housing
 - Pet preventive clinics in areas of greatest need

Commissioner Champommier acknowledged Dr. Ehnert for her presentation. He expressed his concern about the large amounts of pets not receiving proper care. He asked about community awareness, and the Vet program's impression regarding health for pets.

Dr. Ehnert stated the Vet program performs outreach through the Parks-After-Dark program. The Vet program also does community needs assessments through community clinics in areas where people cannot afford to pay. There are no veterinarian clinics in some cities of the County.

Commission Chair Dowling asked about reaching out to the State for funds to create Veterinarian clinics in areas of need. Also asked about the use of large parking lot spaces for low cost Veterinarian services.

Dr. Ehnert stated parking lot spaces would not be ideal for Veterinary services as Veterinarians require the use of indoor space that could be converted into surgical areas for free spade and neutered procedures.

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| | <p>Commissioner Colopy stated both the City of Long Beach and City of Pasadena provide their own separate animal and care services.</p> <p>Dr. Ehnert expressed the interest in future animal disease and regional surveillance in the cities of Long Beach and Pasadena. She stated the Vet program works on becoming more community and partnership focused as opposed to regulations. She stated the Vet program is currently integrated with non-profits.</p> <p>Commissioner Champommier asked about non-profits and their role.</p> <p>Dr. Ehnert stated there are many human societies and non-profit foundations that relate to animals that offer free services at a health center. She stated that the Vet program currently works with the downtown dog rescue center which provides free clinic services on a monthly-basis for people who own pets.</p> <p>Commission Chair Dowling thanked Dr. Ehnert and the Veterinary Program for their presentation.</p> | |
| <p><u>VI. ADJOURMENT</u></p> | <p>The meeting adjourned at approximately at 11:45 a.m.</p> | |