

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
November 9, 2017
MINUTES**

**APPROVED
12/14/17**

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. Barbara Ferrer, Director of Public Health***
Dr. Jeffrey Gunzenhauser, Medical Director**

Sara Guizar, Secretary*
Public Health Commission

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ADVISORS

Cynthia Harding, Chief Deputy Director**
Kim Harrison Eowan*

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

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP
<u>I. Call to Order</u>	<i>The meeting was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Chairperson Dowling, at the Central Public Health Center.</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<u>II. Announcements and Introductions</u>	<i>Introduction of Commissioners and guests was conducted.</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<u>III. Approval of Minutes</u>	MOTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR OCTOBER 12, 2017.	<i>The motion passed by Chairperson Dowling, seconded by Vice-Chair Champommier, all in favor by saying yes.</i>
<u>IV. Public Health Report</u>	Ms. Kim Harrison Eowan, provided the Commission with the Public Health (PH) Report, and discussed Department of Public Health (DPH) activities since the last report on October 12, 2017. Governor Declares Statewide Hepatitis A Outbreak (Hep A) in California DPH is actively responding to local outbreaks of Hep A cases among homeless persons, illicit drug users, and men who have sex with men (MSM). About 30	

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cases have been reported, and about half the patients identified as homeless.

Public Health Urges Hepatitis A Vaccination For Men Who Have Sex With Men

About half of reported Hep A cases are among MSM. DPH recommends that health care providers remind MSM patients about getting the Hep A vaccine. DPH continues to provide education and vaccination to the homeless, agencies working with individuals who are homeless and/or active illicit drug users, and the MSM population.

Public Health Goes Door-To- Door to Warn Residents That “It’s Not Just A Bite”

DPH continues its campaign on “It’s Not Just A Bite” to promote actions people can take to protect themselves and their communities from mosquito-borne diseases. In October 2017, DPH conducted a door-to-door outreach to inform residents about increases in cases of West Nile virus and the continue risk of Zika virus. The disease and death rates have increased since 2016 with a total of 208 cases including 16 deaths from West Nile virus related illness. DPH works actively with the vector control districts and regional partners to inform people about the risk of diseases from mosquitoes.

Tuberculosis Cases in LAC

Commission Chair Dowling asked about the 208 TB cases reported and if these were state-wide cases.

Ms. Eowan stated TB cases reported are only for LAC.

Get the Flu Shot to Prevent the Spread of Influenza

DPH recommends that everyone six months of age and older get their annual flu vaccine. Vaccinations can be obtained at no cost through public health centers, libraries, and over 100 community vaccination events throughout LAC.

Changes to HIV Prevention and HIV Surveillance Outlined in New Guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

DPH was instructed by the Board of Supervisors (Board), to report back on how

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	<p>programming will address current gaps in HIV prevention among highly-impacted groups, geographic distribution of interventions, and potential pilot programming opportunities to further impact HIV rates among these groups. The benchmarks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce new in HIV infections to 500 per year from the current estimate of 1,850 • Ensure that at least 90% of people living with HIV have been diagnosed • Ensure that a least 90% of those diagnosed maintain viral suppression • Ensure 70,000 high risk HIV-negative residents are accessing biomedical HIV prevention services <p>Achievement of these goals will require more accelerated HIV prevention progress among the most at-risk residents, with a particular focus on Latino gay men, African American gay men, transgender individuals, and women of color.</p> <p>Commissioner Colopy asked about DPH’s partnership with other organizations/agencies to address these priorities/strategies.</p> <p>Commission Chair Dowling asked about anticipated/actual changes in terms to budget allocations from CDC, and/or changes limited to strategic guidelines. He also asked about DPH’s involvement in the CareHarbor event in late November 2017.</p> <p>Update on Progress to Abate Elevated Hexavalent Chromium Levels in The City of Paramount</p> <p>DPH continues to provide the Board with monthly reports on the progress to abate the endangerment posed by elevated hexavalent chromium emissions in the City of Paramount. This month’s report also provides information on five elements of the health agency’s response which include; air quality monitoring, soil assessment, enforcement, occupational health, and public communication.</p> <p>Commission Chair Dowling thanked Ms. Eowan for her report.</p>	<p><i>Ms. Eowan indicated she will follow-up with the information on DPH’s partnership with other organizations, and will report back to the Commission.</i></p> <p><i>Ms. Eowan will follow-up with a response on the anticipated budget changes/allocations, as well as a response on the CareHarbor event, and will report back to the Commission.</i></p>
<p><u>V. Presentation: Tuberculosis Control Program</u></p>	<p>Dr. Julie Higashi, Director of the Tuberculosis (TB) Control Program (TBCP), provided the Commission with an update on TBCP’s activities.</p> <p>TBCP Mission and Vision</p>	

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	<p>Mission - Prevent transmission of TB within Los Angeles County (LAC).</p> <p>Vision - Eliminate TB from LAC. Currently, about 300,000 TB cases were reported in the United States (US), and about 10 TB cases reported in LAC per year. TBCP offers direct outreach to ensure TB is under control, and communicators/ agencies are connected with CDC and the California Department of Public Health TBCP branch.</p> <p>Overview</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic TBCP functions and organization• Brief epidemiology of TB in LAC• TB in the homeless population in LAC <p>TB in LAC – Overall Burden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• About 500 cases of active TB disease are reported to CDC per year• New York City with the highest number of TB cases• 80% of active TB cases in LAC (generally in California and the US)• About 800,000 LAC residents are infected with TB <p>Highlight Unique TBCP Functions</p> <p>Dr. Higashi stated it is required by the State Health Department to review and approve the discharge of TB patients to the community and to other facilities, including TB patients in a hospital or a correctional facility. TBCP oversees and evaluates LAC's TB performance for case management, contact investigation, and immigrant evaluation. Dr. Higashi also stated that TBCP is the lead educator for communities and provides outreach and training to providers.</p> <p>LA County in the Nation - 2016</p> <p>Higher cases of TB were reported in California, Texas, New York, and Florida, with fewer cases reported in LAC. Dr. Higashi discussed the following graphs and charts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>TB Cases by Local Health Jurisdiction California, 2016</i>• <i>TB Case Counts and Incidence Rates, LAC 2000-2016</i>• <i>TB Cases by Health District – LAC 2012-2016</i>• <i>U.S. and non-U.S. Born TB Cases – LAC 2002-2016</i>	<p><i>Sara Guizar, Staff Liaison, provided the Commission with a copy of the LAC Commission Manual and acknowledgement form, at the Public Health Commission meeting of November 9, 2017. Signed acknowledgement form was returned to the Board Commission Services on November 9, 2017.</i></p>
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- *Non-U.S. Born TB cases by Country of Birth – 2016*
- *TB incidence Rates buy Sex and Age – LAC 2010*
- *TB Cases, Asian by Health District – LAC 2012-2016*
- *TB Cases, Hispanic by Health District – LAC 2012-2016*
- *TB Cases, African-American by Health District – LAC 2012-2016*

Children Less Than 5 Years Old with TB, LAC – Pediatric Cases in ages 0-4

TBCP is currently examining recent transmission to improve contact investigations, and to prevent pediatric TB cases:

- There has been a 1.4% increase of TB cases in this population from 2015 to 2017

TB Rate Among Persons Living With HIV, LAC

Dr. Higashi stated that due to treatment of active TB cases, and the continued focus of primary care HIV providers on diagnosing and treating TB, a decrease has been reported.

LAC TB Prevention and Control Status Snapshot

TB case count declined in 2016:

- Pediatric TB cases represent ongoing transmission
- Demographics of TB in LAC
- 80% in non-US born
- US born (Homeless, African-American, and Pediatric)
- 5% HIV/7% homeless population

Status of TB in LAC Homeless Population

Dr. Higashi stated that about 7% of TB patients have experienced homelessness since the year 2000. The general rate of TB infection in the homeless population is about 10%. She stated that early detection of TB cases can reduce transmission in the Homeless population. Dr. Higashi discussed the following graphs and charts:

- *TB Patients Experiencing Homelessness*
- *Risk Factors and Mortality Among Homeless TB Patients – LAC 2016*
- *TB Cases by Health District – LAC 2012-2016*

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- *TB Rate Among the Homeless Population – LAC 2012-2016*

TB in Grupos – Another Challenge

Grupos are unlicensed faith-based recovery services for drug and alcohol abusers. TBCP, in collaboration with its cluster team, is able to provide more proactive/case finding in the Grupos:

- Dormitory-style sleeping arrangements and meals/ Community support
- Services provided locally

Dr. Higashi discussed the following graphs and charts:

- *Grupo Partnership Efforts*
- *TBCP Staff – Cluster and Homeless/HIV Outreach Teams*
- *When is the Outbreak Over?*
- *TBCP Federal Funding is Vulnerable*
- *LAC G11610 Cluster – 2007-2016 & Pathways and Grupo History*

Coalition to End TB in LAC

TBCP with community partners has initiated a coalition to support awareness and accelerate progress toward TB elimination. This coalition includes representatives from academia, homeless providers, the industry, and the Cities of Pasadena and Long Beach.

Summary

Dr. Higashi stated LAC has one of the highest burdens of TB in the US. Populations at risk include non-US born, people living with HIV, and the homeless. Dr. Higashi also stated that TBCP in partnership with Community Health Services continues to provide capacity to address outbreaks.

Mr. Wesley Ford of Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC), distributed and discussed a copy of Los Angeles County Substance Use Treatment Services brochure, and the effects of TB in persons with substance use. He stated that free of charge alcohol and drug treatment services are provided to anyone under Medi-Cal, My Health L.A. recipients, the homeless, and/or undocumented individuals:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copies of the patient handbook and other resources are available on the patient and public page of SAPC's website, accessible at: www.publichealth.lacounty.gov/sapc/patientpublic.htm <p>Commissioner Colopy asked about effective ways for identifying and referring TB patients.</p> <p>Dr. Higashi informed the Commission about a new diagnostic/sensitive tool for detecting TB known as the Gene Expert.</p> <p>TB Cases with Diabetes for Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic Populations in LAC</p> <p>Dr. Higashi provided the Commission with information on TB cases with Diabetes in the Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic populations in LAC, and the new Latent TB Infection (LTBI) clinics for children and adults located at LAC+USC Hospital.</p> <p>Commission Chair Dowling expressed his concern about the worldwide epidemic of TB cases with Diabetes. He also commented on the opening of six new armories to shelter the homeless. The Armories provide meals and showers for the homeless on a nightly basis, with services ending at 6:00 a.m.</p> <p>Commissioner Crawford asked about any TB outbreaks in sports teams.</p> <p>Dr. Higashi stated there are no TB outbreaks known in sports teams; however, TB exposures do occur in colleges and/or high schools.</p> <p>Commission Chair Dowling thanked Dr. Higashi for the wonderful presentation.</p>	
<u>VI. ADJOURNMENT</u>	The meeting adjourned at approximately at 11:45 a.m.	