

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
February 8, 2018  
MINUTES**

**Approved  
3/8/18**

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Jean G. Champommier, Ph.D. Chairperson \***  
Crystal D. Crawford, J.D. \*  
Patrick T. Dowling, M.D., M.P.H., \*  
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, Senior Advisor to the Chief Deputy Director \*

**\*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 10:35 a.m. by Chairperson Champommier, 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 was conducted.</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<b><u>III. Approval of Minutes</u></b>	<b>MOTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JANUARY 11, 2018</b>  <b>MOTION: APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR FEBRUARY 8, 2018</b>	<i>Approval of the January 2018 minutes was postponed until the next regularly scheduled meeting in February 2018.</i>
<b><u>IV. Public Health Report</u></b>	<i>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 January 11, 2018.</i>  <b>HIGH LEVELS OF INFLUENZA ACTIVITY CONTINUE IN LA COUNTY</b>  <i>Ms. Harrison Eowan provided the Commission with an update on the high levels of influenza activity in Los Angeles County (LAC). She stated the high levels of flu activity continue across the County (158 cases of influenza associated deaths have been confirmed Countywide). By comparison, a total of 80 confirmed</i>	

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influenza-associated deaths were confirmed during the entire flu season in 2017. Data shows nearly 85% of deaths have occurred in adults over 65 years old, and one death of a child under 18 years old. She stated that DPH continues efforts to inform communities on the importance of flu vaccination and protective behaviors.

Dr. Ferrer informed the Commission about the high rates of influenza illness in young children. She stated DPH has performed outreach efforts in schools and childcare centers throughout the County. Letters also went out to school Superintendents about understanding flu symptoms, and on ways to keep school buildings and child care centers clean. Dr. Ferrer also stated DPH clinics attend to walk-ins and are open to the public. DPH urges people in communities to get immunized, and to contact their providers for care and guidance.

Commissioner Crawford commented that some individuals on certain medications are hesitant in getting the flu vaccination. She asked about better ways to address concerned individuals on the importance of getting vaccinated during the flu season.

Dr. Ferrer stated that DPH's literature states and underlines contraindications and prevention. She also stated that providers do a good job in screening their patients and in making sure who should be vaccinated. DPH ensures people understand there might be reasons why some people should be vaccinated.

**ZIKA VIRUS ACTIVITY AND ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Ms. Harrison Eowan provided the Commission with an update on Zika virus activity, implementation of DPH's Zika Prevention Plan, and information for future plans to prevent Zika virus transmission in LAC. She stated that as of 2015, approximately 4,000 LAC residents have been tested by DPH for Zika virus infection, 800 cases have been investigated, and a 123 cases have been confirmed with Zika as of January 2018. She also stated there have been no cases acquired as a result of local mosquito-borne transmission, and apart from one case, all cases documented in LAC were acquired during travel. Additional update:

- A substantial decrease in 2017-18 with a peak in the Summer of 2016
- DPH launched "It's Not Just A Bite" campaign in 2017
- Information materials in several languages were distributed in venues across the County

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Dr. Ferrer stated DPH conducted a survey to attempt to identify knowledge and behaviors regarding mosquitoes and mosquito-borne diseases. DPH also performed door-to-door outreach and distributed materials to businesses, schools, and community centers. Dr. Ferrer applauded the Vector Control District for helping communities and for their effort in tracking mosquito activity throughout the County.

Commission Chair Champommier commented on the problems of standing water and on DPH's mosquito-borne poster announcements in cities throughout LAC.

**HEPATITIS A CASES AND OUTREACH**

Ms. Harrison Eowan stated DPH was instructed by the Board of Supervisors (Board) to report back weekly with information on Hepatitis A (Hep A) cases and prevention efforts. She stated a total of 37 Hep A cases were reported in January 2018, and over 35,000 doses of Hep A vaccines have been distributed to partners.

Dr. Ferrer informed the Commission on a new case of Hep A among a homeless individual reported within the last three (3) months. She stated depending on new cases, DPH feels confident to declare this outbreak over in the near future.

**PROGRESS TO ABATE ELEVATED HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM LEVELS IN THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT**

DPH was instructed by the Board to report back on efforts to address elevated hexavalent chromium levels in the City of Paramount. The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) has been conducting investigations to identify the sources of chromium-6 in the City of Paramount since November 2016. Early in the investigations, SCAQMD determined that two facilities were contributing to elevated airborne levels of Chromium-6. DPH works on collaborative efforts to assess and abate the industrial emissions and improve conditions within the affected communities, and works closely with the Paramount Unified School District in reviewing and sampling methods, and to provide recommendations on protocols.

Dr. Ferrer suggested future presentation recommendations/topics of interest to the Commission. She suggested Environmental Justice, Cannabis, and the Center for Health Equity as primary topics for the Commission.

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	<p>Commission Chair Champommier thanked Dr. Ferrer for her advice and recommendations. He stated the suggested programs mentioned will be of great interest to the Commission.</p>	
<p><b><u>V. Presentation: Co-Location of Health Centers - Community Health Services</u></b></p>	<p>Ms. Gema Morales-Meyer and Dr. Nina J. Park, provided the Commission with an update on the Co-location of Health Centers/Integrated Services of the Health Agency.</p> <p><b>OVERVIEW</b></p> <p>Ms. Morales-Meyer stated that the mission of the Health Agency is to improve the health and wellness of LAC residents through integrated, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate services that promote health for people living in healthy communities. There are 15 health centers within one satellite area of LAC. The following background information was provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August of 2015 - The Board approved the creation of the Health Agency</li> <li>• September 2015 - Release of strategic priorities of the Agency</li> <li>• January 2016 - CHS begun collaboration and planning with DHS to co-locate and integrate services</li> </ul> <p><b>CARE PARTNERS AND FACILITIES</b></p> <p>Ms. Morales-Meyer provided the Commission with an update on the co-location of health centers and care partners. She stated that the Curtis Tucker Health Center was one of the first co-located facilities actively operating the Primary Care Services. Ms. Morales-Meyer discussed the following charts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Care Partners/Clinic Sites</i></li> <li>• <i>Co-location of Health Centers</i></li> <li>• <i>Current Integration Activities and Site Status</i></li> </ul> <p>Commission Chair Champommier asked about available mental health services at the ELA facility.</p> <p>Dr. Park stated that the ELA center currently has no mental health services. Ms. Morales-Meyer informed the Commission of the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) STD clinics, and Alateen program for teen services. She also commented on future plans for non-traditional services for teens.</p> <p>Dr. Ferrer asked about available primary care services for teens at the Curtis Tucker Health Center.</p>	

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Ms. Morales-Meyer stated there are no primary teen care services at the Curtis Tucker Health Center. The Curtis Tucker Health Center currently has two internal medicine primary care clinics with additional examination rooms. She stated that CHS's goal is to improve efficiency, integrate business office functions for all services provided, and improve flow in STD clinics. Future steps include:

- Add group and individual counseling rooms for DMH's Transition Age Youth program
- Add substance abuse prevention and counseling

Commission Chair Champommier commented on DMH's services and asked about any complications in terms of registration purposes.

Dr. Park stated DMH's registrations are based on a different system than those used by DHS and DPH.

Ms. Morales-Meyer stated that the Torrance Health Center is one of the smaller clinic sites, and partners with the Department of Health Services' Long Beach Comprehensive Health Center. She commented on the Antelope Valley Health Center (AVHC) and stated it is actively operating. The high desert Rehabilitation Center's Lab processes DPH tests at AVHC. The Glendale Health Center is actively operating primary care services. Ms. Morales-Meyer also stated that the Tuberculosis (TB) services at the Glendale Health Center was regionalized to the Pacoima Health Center.

**NEW SITES**

Ms. Morales-Meyer informed the Commission on CHS's two (2) new clinic sites: The North Hollywood Health Center (NHHC), and the ELA Health Center. The NHHC provides STD services, and the ELA Health Center provides primary care services. DPH currently works on adding DPH Nurses and community liaison staff to address issues such as Exide outreach and health equity.

**HOW OTHER (NON-CLINICAL) CHS ACTIVITIES WILL BE IMPACTED**

Dr. Park stated that CHS's field services and their PH nursing program provide critical acute communicable disease control, health promotion, and emergency preparedness. CHS works on proving other services i.e., Zika, school-based outbreaks, Exide outreach and leadership with cities on healthy community planning. Dr. Park stated CHS works with DMH's data system allowing to view medical information from all patients.

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	<p>Commissioner Dowling informed the Commission about the Harbor UCLA Medical Center and their struggle to integrate services back in 1995, and DPH's vaccination clinics and their efforts to make it assessable for patients. He also commented on the County's medical education, residency program, and on the shortage of primary care providers.</p> <p>Dr. Ferrer commented on the family residency program at the Charles Drew University (CDU). She stated DMH's residency program is well supported by the residency program at CDU.</p> <p>Commission Chair Champommier thanked Dr. Ferrer and CHS for their presentation and comments.</p>	
<b><u>VI.</u></b> <b><u>Unfinished Business</u></b>	<p><b>2017 Annual Report to the Board</b></p> <p>The Commission continues to review and discuss the draft annual report. It was requested by the Commission to obtain a sample/copy of a final report from the Board to use as a guide in finalizing the Commission's report.</p> <p><b>Topics of Interest to the Commission</b></p> <p>The Commission discussed and agreed on Dr. Ferrer's suggestion for future program presentations for 2018.</p>	<p>The Commission's Secretary requested a sample of a final Annual Report from the Board Commission Services. The sample annual report was forwarded to the Commission on February 21, 2018.</p> <p>Topic presentations of interest to the Commission have been confirmed for 2018.</p>
<b><u>VII.</u></b> <b><u>Public Comment</u></b>	<p>Ms. Lolita Namocatcat of the Asian Pacific Counseling Treatment Center commented on a deadly flu vaccine currently being provided in the Philippines, and asked the Commission if the type of vaccine given at DPH's walk-in clinics would be the same type of vaccine being used in the Philippines.</p> <p>The Commission stated that the vaccine currently being provided to U.S. patients is established to be safe and effective.</p>	
<b><u>VIII.</u></b> <b><u>ADJOURNMENT</u></b>	<p>The meeting adjourned at approximately at 12:30 p.m.</p>	