

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
October 29, 2019**

**APPROVED**

**COMMISSIONERS**

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

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES**

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director of Public Health \*  
 Dr. Muntu Davis, Health Officer \*\*

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ADVISORS**

Megan McClaire, Chief of Staff \*\*  
 Dawna Treece, Commission Liaison\*  
 Jackie Valenzuela, DPH Director Senior Advisor\*  
**\*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 3:03 p.m. by Vice Chair Dowling, at the Central Public Health Center.</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<b><u>II. Announcements and Introductions</u></b>	<i>The Commissioners, DPH staff, and guests introduced themselves. Chair Crystal Crawford called-in (no hyphen)</i>  <i>Approval of August 8, 2019 meeting minutes</i>	<i>Information only.</i>  <i>On motion of Vice-Chair Dowling, seconded by Commissioner Dorian, there being no objection, the August 8, 2019 meeting minutes were approved.</i>

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**III. Public Health Report**

Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director and Jackie Valenzuela, Senior Advisor provided the Commission with the Public Health (PH) report and discussed Department of Public Health (DPH) activities since the last meeting on August 8, 2019.

**Measles Exposure Advisory**

DPH is investigating an additional confirmed case of measles in a resident who recently traveled and became ill with measles shortly after returning to Los Angeles County (LAC) in late September. There have been 17 measles cases among LAC residents, in addition to 11 non-resident measles cases that traveled through LAC. DPH is looking to identify others who are at risk for measles.

**First West Nile Virus Death Reported in LAC**

DPH has confirmed the first death due to West Nile Virus (WNV) for the 2019 season in LAC. The patient, a resident of the South Bay area, was hospitalized and died from WNV neuro-invasive disease. Residents are encouraged to protect themselves by actively checking for items that can hold stagnant water and using repellent products during peak mosquito season.

**Clearing the Smoke on Tobacco Control Policy in Public Health**

DPH continues to warn residents to stop vaping now and seeks to clear up misperceptions about e-cigarettes use. DPH is disseminating messaging to address the ongoing myths and dangers about vaping and any inaccuracies of tobacco control policies. There have been 27 cases and one death in LAC thus far.

**First Flu Death in LA County**

DPH confirmed the first flu-associated death for the 2019-2020 flu season. The individual who died was a middle-aged person with underlying health conditions. DPH reminds residents that immunization is the best method of protection to reduce the likelihood of spreading the flu and avoiding serious illness.

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**Domestic Violence Council (DVC)**

The DVC submitted its annual report back to the Board of Supervisors (BOS). The DVC has worked with DPH programs and other County departments to elevate public health model for addressing domestic violence and intimate partner violence (IPV) addressed, moving from a solely criminal justice focus. The DVC developed a plan to create a dashboard that will offer timely and accurate DV/IPV data, and provide a snapshot of related incidents and services. The DVC is in the process of obtaining relevant data and the dashboard will be launched this month.

**Improving Supermarket Quality in LAC**

This is in response to the July 2019 motion to the Board to assess grocery store inspection practices within the purview of the DPH Environmental Health Division and provide recommendations on how to address food quality issues that also overlap with food safety issues. DPH is committed to educating consumers through its Los Angeles County Food Redistribution Initiative (LACFRI). DPH has developed an expiration date FAQ document aimed at informing the public about food product dating and common misconceptions about “expired foods”.

**Update on the Countywide Office of Violence Prevention (OVP)**

The report outlines current funding opportunities and a plan for pooled investment. The report highlights the importance of the County’s investment in community-based strategies to advance OVP efforts. DPH will continue efforts to advance the infrastructure necessary to support the OVP and support implementation of the Office that was launched earlier this year.

**Recent Trends in Morbidity Rates and Causes of Death Among People Experiencing Homelessness in LAC**

Homelessness is a growing crisis in Los Angeles County and across other regions in the country. This report gives information on mortality rates and causes of death among individuals experiencing homelessness and the importance for planning services and prioritizing resources allocations to meet the health needs of the

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	<p>population. Multiple studies have documented mortality rates from three to eight times higher among those who are homeless compared to those in the general population. Also, persons who are homeless die at much younger ages on average than those who are housed. The report gave detailed information and recommendations on the breakdown of homeless persons by race/ethnicity, age, and gender.</p> <p>DPH is working in collaboration with the Coroner's Office, Health Services, Mental Health, and the CEO's Homeless initiative to survey 1,500 individuals experiencing homelessness to validate findings and understand barriers to receiving necessary care. Outreach will include participating in Care Harbor in mid -November, deploying street outreach teams to connect with those who are hard to reach, and leveraging DPH's vaccine clinics at shelters.</p> <p>Additionally, DPH is working with the Coroner's Office to create a mortality review workgroup that will do more in-depth analysis of those who have died to link to other County data, such as health care utilization.</p>	
<p><b><u>IV. Presentation: Health Integration Network (HIN)</u></b></p>	<p><b>PRESENTATION OVERVIEW</b></p> <p>Dr. Ferrer introduced the Health Integration Network proposal developed by the Directors of the County's Health Departments (Health Services, Mental Health, and Public Health) that outlines a plan to integrate services and programming of the three departments, in the absence of a Health Agency Director. This presentation is one of several provided to staff and key stakeholders. Input that is gathered will be incorporated into the report back to the Board of Supervisors in November.</p> <p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>The purpose of the LAC Health Integration Network (HIN) is to "Align resources and efficiently implement board approved prevention, treatment, and healing services across the three health departments to improve the health and well-being of LA residents, in a manner that</p>	

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promotes health equity and is consistent with each department's charge and scope".  
It has been agreed the titled word "network" will be changed, and equity, partnership, and labor will be added to the purpose.

**Proposed HIN Structure**

The three health department directors will serve as equal partners with a rotating chair as the facilitator. The agency directors have defined the roles and responsibilities. The shared governance with an annual rotating chair will:

- Establish goals
- Identify projects
- Select outcomes metric for Project
- Develop implementation plans
- Measure Success
- Issue regular reports to the Board

This will be part of the performance goals for each director to ensure accountability.

**HIN Staffing and Funding**

A Chief Operations Officer (COO) will be hired to lead and implement projects. COO and the health department directors will meet weekly. The COO will report to all three directors, but the Chair will provide primary supervision. The COO will implement projects across the three departments and hire managers for the different projects. Additional funding will not necessarily, as expenses are divided among the three departments.

**HIN Proposed Priorities and Objectives**

1. Integration and development of prevention, treatment, and healing services
2. Reduction of Health Inequities
3. Improvement of Organizational Effectiveness

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**Presentation:  
Website Redesign  
Project**

Presentation Overview: David Cardenas, CIO, and Director of Public Health Information Systems introduced the new platform, new designs and concepts being used to modernize the DPH website to make it more user-friendly.

**The Issue**

The current platform is approximately 15 years old, which makes it difficult to navigate and access information, has poor search capabilities, and some of the components were not supported by vendors for the platform. In addition, the links were dead or broken, content was outdated by an old toolset that was difficult to manage by staff to keep their information current. The website was not mobile-friendly or ADA/WCAG Compliant.

**The Solution**

DPH, ISD, and Health Services are working together and have partnered with the same vendor to redesign their websites using the same platform and develop the content. Some of the features will focus on the user's center design approach and will allow for personalization. The redesign will track user behavior more accurately by inserting agents or cookies and assess patterns to be able to serve up content to the user. Modern search capabilities will allow the search engine to bring up more accurate results. The redesign will be user-friendly so that programs can independently manage their content and actively keep information up-to-date. Responsive user interface will allow information to be adaptable to different types of devices. Lastly, translation of information into different languages is necessary to be culturally sensitive to LAC residents/users.

**Approach**

The project started at the beginning of September and has gone through the discovery process to determine what people wanted on the website. September and October were used to conduct internal stakeholder sessions and interviews with DPH and DHS staff.

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	<p>Currently, the group is discussing information architecture to see how the design will be laid out so that topics that are important for the user are presented. PHIS will go through the design period until the end of the year while continuing to conduct external stakeholders sessions. The team's timeline will have a design frame by the beginning of the year (January 2020) and will have a consensus between the two departments on the content. However, there will be a gap in the type of features and functionality between the DPH and DHS websites that will be incorporated into the final design by spring (April 2020 – May 2020) for testing, then eventually released fall 2020.</p> <p><b>Next Steps</b> The team will have cycles of the prototype surfaces and conduct feedback sessions to the same people that previously gave feedback to compare if there are any improvements, report flows, or other issues and migrating content to the site. They will continue to conduct focus groups, train staff, and support teams to initiate and conduct content inventory.</p>	
<p><b><u>V.</u></b>    <b><u>New Business</u></b></p>		
<p><b><u>VI.</u></b>    <b><u>Unfinished Business</u></b></p>	<p>Sunset Review Questionnaire:</p> <p>The Commissioners reviewed and approved the final report.</p>	<p><i>On motion of Vice-Chair Dowling to approve report, seconded by Commissioner Dorian, there being no objection, the 2018 Sunset Review Report was approved.</i></p>

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<p><b><u>VII.</u>    <u>Public Comment</u></b></p>		
<p><b><u>VIII.</u>    <u>Adjournment</u></b></p>	<p><b><i>MOTION: ADJOURN THE MEETING</i></b></p> <p><i>The PHC meeting adjourned at approximately 4:24 p.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Commission Vice -Chair Dowling called a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:24 pm. The motion passed with Commissioner Dorian and seconded by Commissioner Colopy. All in favor.</i></p>