

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
August 8, 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*
***Present **Excused ***Absent**

TOPIC	DISCUSSION/FINDINGS	RECOMMENDATION/ACTION/ FOLLOW-UP
<u>I. Call to Order</u>	<i>The meeting was called to order at 10:30 a.m. by Vice Chair Dowling, at the Central Public Health Center.</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<u>II. Announcements and Introductions</u>	<i>The Commissioners, DPH staff, and guests introduced themselves..</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<u>III. Public Health Report</u>	<p>Dr. Barbara Ferrer, Director and Ms. Megan McClaire, Chief of Staff, provided the Commission with the Public Health (PH) report and updates, and discussed Department of Public Health (DPH) activities since the last report on July 11, 2019.</p> <p>New Report Assesses Health Equity Implications of Cannabis Regulation for Los Angeles County A health report provided new information on the health implications of cannabis regulatory options for local jurisdictions. The report found that unlicensed cannabis dispensaries in Los Angeles County (LAC) are overconcentrated in low-income communities of color. These areas are already burdened with health inequities. The unlicensed dispensaries are engaged in business practices that pose health risks to consumers. The report also found that cannabis-related emergency department visits increased among African Americans and young adults over the past five years. DPH will continue to provide information on practices that will support all residents.</p>	<i>Dawna Treece will send the Commission the report and the “New Report Assesses Health Equity Implications of Cannabis Regulation for Los Angeles County” press release</i>

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Public Health Investigates Additional Measles Case

DPH continues to see additional measles cases in LA County. At the end of last month, there were 15 confirmed cases. Just recently, two non-LA County residents traveled through LAX and Union Station. DPH will continue to work with providers to ensure they are elevating the efforts to raise awareness and the importance of immunizations to the public.

In July, LAC had a real potential for significant exposure, but DPH was able to keep the numbers low. DPH has a great team in place and has done a phenomenal job by providing swift action with quarantine, exclusion, and established vaccinations for those who need them. DPH will continue to focus on the vulnerable populations through the shelters and offer flu, Hep A and measles vaccinations.

Door-to-Door Outreach and Community Field Response

On July 20, 2019, DPH sent nearly 100 staff members to do door-to-door outreach in the City of San Fernando. The outreach teams provide residents with information on the risk of heat-related illnesses and how to protect themselves and their families during extremely hot weather days. This event helped spread information about extreme heat to San Fernando Valley residents, and gave DPH a chance to learn more on the organization using the Community Field Response (CFR) infrastructure. CFR allows employees to respond to Public Health emergencies and outreach based upon where they live in the County. DPH will do another CFR in Quemetco on September 21, 2019.

DPH is Honored for Excellent Work – National Achievement Award

Department of Public Health earned five prestigious achievement awards from the National Association of Counties (NACo). NACo recognized DPH for the following:

- Community Outreach to Address Contamination from the Exide Battery Facility
- Zika Action and Prevention Mission Ready Team Program

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- 2018 West Nile Virus Prevention Challenge
- Administrative Pathfinders in Grants Management
- Vital Records E-Commerce Program

First Two Cases of West Nile Virus

Public Health has identified the first two cases of human West Nile Virus infection in Los Angeles County. One case involved a resident from the San Fernando Valley region and the other from the southeastern region of Los Angeles. DPH is disseminating information on best practices.

Lead Paint Litigation Settlement

The Sherwin-Williams Company, ConAgra Grocery Products Company, and NL Industries, Inc., will pay \$305 million to Los Angeles County (LAC), along with 10 other cities and counties, to address lead paint-related hazards in residential properties. The settlement will provide significant funding for the remediation of lead paint hazards in residential housing, for low-income families with homes built before 1951, throughout LAC. LAC has over 3,000 children that have been diagnosed with Lead Poisoning in the County. This settlement will allow Public Health to create an intervention program that will provide services to young children and their families who are most at risk for lead poisoning. Public Health will partner with the Los Angeles County Development Authority (LACDA) to create the Lead Paint Hazard Mitigation Program, that is expected to launch in Fall 2019.

Board Motion: Communicable Disease Prevention and Intervention Plan

This report back was to address the elevated risk of disease transmission due to sanitary conditions and give recommendations. DPH provided information on select communicable diseases, which can be linked to living in unsanitary conditions or overcrowded areas. DPH provided recommendations to minimize the risk of disease transmissions such as garbage removal, illegal dumping, increased access to hygiene facilities and access to healthcare services. On average, a homeless person dies 20-40 earlier than the average person from chronic diseases. Dr. Simon is working with the

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<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dr. Ferrer</i></p>	<p>Coroner's Office to identify death rates associated with homelessness. DPH and the Coroner will survey and look at the conditions in the overcrowded encampments to issue a report.</p> <p>Upcoming Board Agenda Motions</p> <p>Motion: <i>Cancellation of Design-Build contract with McCarthy Building Co.</i></p> <p>The County is considering canceling a contract to build a jail. The CEO, Health Agency, and DPW are all proposing other options other than a Mental Health Treatment Center. The Health Departments have a report that outlined three options for the Board to consider in place of a jail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build 2400 care beds on the campus and using Twin Towers with a reduced census and renovation to be a place for in-custody mental health treatment.• Reduce the number of treatment/custody beds of 3800 to 2400 and build-out a community care facility of 900 beds on the campus.• Drop the number of jail beds for treatment to 1200 and 2400 care beds. <p>The report also discussed demographic trends in criminal justice, changes in treatment modalities, capacity limitations in the State hospital system, and the impact of diversion programs. The RAND Corporation is conducting ongoing analysis of the jail mental health population, which may determine an estimate on how many inmates can be safely diverted to community-based treatment from current County custody settings.</p> <p>Motion: <i>Care for Individuals in Custody who are experiencing Serious Mental Illness</i></p> <p>DPH, along with other County departments, will report back with recommendations regarding reallocation of funding currently identified for the Mental Health Treatment Center Project. It will consider strategies to build out the continuum of care and alternatives to incarceration, ensure humane treatment and care of incarcerated individuals not eligible for diversion.</p>	
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	<p>Comm. Dowling raised a concern about the end of treatment at a women’s jail in Lynwood and the attitude of sheriffs regarding their addictions.</p> <p>Jail health falls under Department of Health Services (DHS). DHS, DMH, and DPH can provide treatment, but it is up to the sheriff on who gets the treatment.</p> <p><i>Motion: Strategies to Prevent Mass Shooting in Los Angeles County</i> DPH was directed to convene the Office of Violence Prevention’s Leadership Council and the Community Partnership Council to identify strategies to prevent mass shootings, with a focus on schools, houses of worship, and public spaces, and workplaces. DPH will report back in 60 days.</p> <p><i>Student Wellbeing Centers</i> The Student Wellbeing Centers are youth-friendly spaces that provide students with a safe, welcoming place where they will find caring adults, supportive peers, and integrated services. DPH to open 41 Student Wellbeing Centers in September and 9 online by January. The centers are across the County. DPH will offer services to educate students for protective practices and promote social/emotional well-being, health affirming actions, and sexual health. Kids 13 years and older are allowed to get services without their parents’ consent. DPH will also equipp parents with information to discuss with their kids.</p> <p><i>New Vision/Mission</i> DPH has revised its Vision, Mission, and Values. The biggest change is around equity.</p> <p><i>Retirement Announcement</i> Angelo Bellomo is retiring at the end of August. Angelo Bellomo is the Director of the Health Protection Bureau. A farewell celebration will be held on August 15th in his honor. Also, He will receive a scroll at the next Board of Supervisor’s meeting. DPH is recruiting</p>	<p><i>Dr. Ferrer will send Commission copy of Jail report</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Ferrer will follow up on drug treatment for addicts in jail</i></p> <p><i>Dr. Ferrer will send DPH’s new Vision/Mission/Values</i></p>
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	<p>nationwide. If you have any candidates, please send names to Dr. Ferrer.</p> <p><i>CDC Visit</i> Dr. Redford spent the day with DPH and was very grateful for DPH's work and innovation. He was very optimistic about ending the HIV epidemic with the current medical advancements. He believed there would be no transmission of the disease if the virus could be suppressed in those who are positive. He is very supportive and will advocate for more funding. There is still much work to be done to make the treatment available to targeted audiences. Certain groups feel that they are not treated fairly because of discrimination of race, define themselves as gay, lesbian, and transgender.</p> <p>Comm. Crawford commented on the use of the word "Skid Row." She advised advocates are asking to use "downtown" instead.</p>	
<p><u>IV. Presentation: Environmental Health Division</u></p>	<p>PRESENTATION OVERVIEW</p> <p>The Environmental Health Division is part of the Health Protection Bureau. Katie Butler presented highlights and updates on the Aliso Canyon health study, challenges, discussion questions, and next steps.</p> <p>The Aliso Canyon Storage Facility, in the North San Fernando Valley, was the largest natural gas disaster in the country's history. Eight to ten thousand households were relocated over four months. After the well was capped and sealed, residents were able to move back, but soon started to report symptoms of illnesses. A study was conducted to give residents better answers and information when they called.</p> <p>Current Status A joint effort by the state, the City of LA, and County jointly settled with SoCalGas for \$119 million on February 25, 2019. Of that, \$25 million will be used for a Health Research study. A portion will go towards other projects such as a fence line monitoring program in the Aliso Canyon area, and an environmental justice community. The Health Research Study will consist of multiple studies that will cover</p>	

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different topic of interests. Those focus areas will be determined by the Scientific Oversight Committee (SOC).

DPH will administer the Health Research Study in collaboration with the Scientific Oversight Committee and Community Advisory Group, who will provide the community's perspective throughout the process.

Aliso Canyon Steering Committee

The Division convened an Internal Steering Committee that consists of the Health Officer, Dr. Davis, Science Officer, Dr. Simon, and members of our include Administrative Support, Finance, Contracts and Grants, and County Counsel team. The committee also includes agency contacts such as state, federal, and independent experts. The committee meets weekly to discuss the program launch and other key startup activities.

Key Startup Activities

The Committee researched the National Institute of Health for best practice models. They found a research consortium for the Gulf following the Deepwater Horizon. There were many parallels but not the same geographic impact as Deepwater. Some of the exposure issues were similar to the oil-gas mixture. The outreach went beyond Porter Ranch, so other communities would be aware of this health study and have the opportunity to get involved.

Engagement Activities

The Committee held Orientation Sessions on two days, March 16 & 19, 2019. The sessions were in an open house format. It was a low turnout of about 50 people each day. Thirty-seven people participated online. Other activities included visits to the farmer's market and six presentations at the local neighborhood council meetings.

Preliminary Engagement – Feedback Received

Some of the community feedback include:

- Create the Community Advisory Group soon
- The Scientific Oversight Committee (SOC) should be diverse and include a variety of specialists

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- The public want to voice their opinions on study goals and have more decision-making power
- Concerns about cancer and mental health. There were reports of shut-ins in the community. People were afraid to breathe the air for fear of health issues.

Scientific Oversight Committee

The Scientific Oversight Committee will have decision-making power and establish the study goals, recommend research and study proposals. DPH will fund and implement the goals according to their recommendations. The program will have an “open call” for nominations for recruiting people who are experts in their field and who have experience with large scale health studies and will ensure there are no conflict of interest with prospective candidates.

Community Advisory Group

19 people were selected to serve on the Community Advisory Group. The group will provide input on study design on behalf of the community during the study. They will assist will identifying mechanisms in the community to disseminate information and identify community organizations that might be interested in having a presentation done by DPH or a researcher.

Community and Communications Engagement

The program will continue to host open houses, public forums, and present at council meetings. They will also post printed materials and continue to update the website.

Challenges

Some of the challenges the program faced were:

- Resources were diverted to work on this project because of the urgency to implement the study quickly
- The limited data available on chemical exposure during the disaster
- Many people have moved in/out of the area since the disaster,

Katie Butler will send link to the Scientific Oversight Committee and UCLA report to the Commissioners

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- Difficulty in recruiting scientific experts on the SOC.
- Limited data on the exposure. The program is still trying to get data from the samples Sempra took from the well site.
- Community engagement fatigue. Residents want to move forward and put this behind them
- The cancer risk was another challenge mentioned.
- Health effects occurs years later. The settlement states that an estimated \$13 million is expected to be spent in the first three years, which means the study may only last for 5-6 years. For long-term studies, to see the effects regarding cancer, can take many years.

Comm. Dorian suggests considering distance and winds when conducting studies to establish health effects and also short-term outcomes.

Next Steps

- The first Community Advisory Group meeting will be held at the end of August
- The Steering Committee will finalize the Study Process Models
- Establish the Scientific Oversight Committee
- Continue community engagement, outreach and revise the Health Research Study website
- Create a health priority draft by the end of the year in order and put it out to bid by in early 2020.

Discussion/Questions

The agency groups have discussed the research questions because there have been many reports of nose bleeds and respiratory illnesses in older individuals. How can DPH gain community trust? What steps to be taken to increase scientific integrity and transparency of the Health Research Study?

Comm. Dorian commented that risk communication is key to enable residents to be advocates for their family and their community, which could increase trust and show transparency. The delay in getting

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	<p>information and where to get it can be problematic. Risk Communication is imperative for future events.</p> <p>Comm. Champommier asked for clarification on the data set from SoCal Gas.</p> <p>SoCal Gas is not providing two different datasets. The department and CPC have demanded, in letters, for the data from SoCal Gas. Residents found an oily mist on their outdoor property. SoCal attempted to put high pressured mugs down the well to destabilize the area, but it spewed up into the air, causing the mist. SoCal cleaned the exteriors of many homes and rated low/med/high density of the mist, which is one dataset that DPH is requesting.</p> <p>Comm Dorian commented on community distrust of the SoCal Gas Co. mainly because of the organization will not share the data information. The information was not being shared probably because of pending litigation.</p>	
<p><u>V. New Business</u></p>		
<p><u>VI. Unfinished Business</u></p>	<p>Sunset Review Questionnaire: The Commission to put together a draft using the last Sunset Review as a model. Also, each Commissioner will put in their comments on the report.</p>	<p><i>Dawna Treece will send budgetary information to Commissioners if needed.</i></p> <p><i>The Public Health Commission should complete the Sunset Review by August 23, 2019</i></p>

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<p><u>VII.</u> <u>Public Comment</u></p>		
<p><u>VIII.</u> <u>Adjournment</u></p>	<p><i>MOTION: ADJOURN THE MEETING</i></p> <p><i>The PHC meeting adjourned approximately at 12:26 p.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Commission Chair Crawford called a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed with Commissioner Dowling and seconded by Commissioner Dorian. All in favor.</i></p>