

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
December 9, 2021**

COMMISSIONERS

Kelly Colopy, M.P.P., **Chairperson** *
Alina Dorian, Ph.D., **Vice-Chair** **
Crystal D. Crawford, J.D.*
Diego Rodrigues, LMFT, MA *
Patrick T. Dowling, M.D., M.P.H.**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES

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

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ADVISORS

Christina Vane-Perez, Chief of Staff *
Dawna Treece, PH 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 remotely at 10:31 a.m. by Chair Colopy</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<u>II. Announcements and Introductions</u>	The Commissioners and DPH staff introduced themselves. October meeting minutes	<i>Information only.</i> <i>Moved to next month</i>
<u>III. Public Health Report</u>	Dr. Ferrer, Director Of Public Health Last month, Public Health held an employee Appreciation Event at Grand Park. It was a peer-driven event to show appreciation and the accomplishments of all Public Health staff. Public Health teams, individuals, and community partners were recognized for their hard work and exceptional leadership during the pandemic. Supervisor Mitchell will begin her tenure as Board Chair on Tuesday. Public Health looks forward to continuing to work closely with Supervisor Mitchell who will bring excellent leadership and commitment to closing gaps on equity and continuous support on the COVID-19 response work.	

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
December 9, 2021**

	<p>Dr. Nichole Quick will join the Public Health staff in January as the Director of Health Facilities Inspection Division. Dr. Quick was formerly the Health Officer for both Orange and Yuba Counties and has over a decade of Public Health leadership experience. Also, Sonya Vasquez will be the new Director of Center for Health Equity. Ms. Vasquez has over 25 years of experience doing community-based equity work and will join the department next week. Eve Sheedy, Director of the Domestic Violence Council, will be retiring at the end of the year. She played a vital role reestablishing council as a vital committee when it moved from the CEO to Public Health and elevated the voices of those who have directly experienced domestic violence.</p> <p>The Department of Public Health is doing its best to comply with the employee vaccination mandate. As of Tuesday, Public Health had about 92% of staff vaccinated, 0.5% semi-vaccinated or partially vaccinated and about 5% that are not (approx. 221 staff). Of these, about half who are not vaccinated are out on leave. There are a few that have no recorded information and the remainder have various reasons (out on leave, processing exemptions, etc.). There is a required weekly testing for any employee who has requested an exemption and is not fully vaccinated through the county's Fulgent testing sites. Employees who are not fully vaccinated cannot provide direct services to county residents or workers. These individuals will be reassigned. A motion was passed on Tuesday that extends the same requirements to all our contractors. Contractors will not be allowed to provide direct services to clients if they are not vaccinated.</p> <p>Public Health has six community vaccination sites that are doing excellent work. The staff are vaccinating children and have made the vaccination sites very welcoming for children from the time they come in until they leave. There is a lot of attention to detail and children are provided with a very welcoming atmosphere with toys and games to occupy their time. The community vaccination sites are open six days a week and closed on Mondays.</p> <p>LAC is seeing the beginning of the winter surge, which means increase in cases. LAC will try to prepare for those increases and do everything possible to further prevent the spread. This year marks one year since the first vaccine was given to a nurse from Kaiser. Public Health will be reporting over 15 million doses administered across the</p>	
--	---	--

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
December 9, 2021**

	<p>county this year. This shows the vast network of vaccination providers and their remarkable achievement.</p> <p>Looking at residents five years and older, 77% have received at least one dose. 75% of 12 years and above are fully vaccinated, 83% with at least one dose and 15% for children 5-11 years old. Unfortunately, there's some unevenness with children living in the highest resource communities having almost three times the rate of vaccination as those children living in the lowest resource communities, which is usually the hardest hit communities. LAC is working hard to close the gap.</p> <p>LAC is watching the Omicron variant very closely as it is spreading. The first case was discovered in an African nation in early November. On November 26th, WHO designated it as a variant of concern. We are still trying to understand the severity of illness from Omicron. This variant is concerning because it has over 50 mutations, including 30 on the spike protein. These mutations raise the possibility of increased infectivity, potential immune evasion, or resistance to treatment. It is the dominant strain that is circulating in South Africa, which provides evidence of its rapid spread.</p> <p>LAC has confirmed a fourth case of the variant from someone who did not travel but had contracted it by being exposed from somebody who did travel. As of now, Delta is still the dominant variant circulating that makes up 99.9% of all sequenced samples. Public Health will continue to learn from the data and see how well the vaccines hold up to the variants. The vaccines and boosters are still providing protection from serious illness.</p> <p>LAC is moving swiftly to protect its most vulnerable populations by providing reliable information to its residents especially those in jail, skilled nursing facilities, shelters, people experiencing homelessness, and schools. New Health Officer Orders (HOO) will go into effect on the 15th for weekly testing regardless of vaccination status. LAC is trying to make sure visitors are not unintentionally bringing the virus onto the facilities.</p> <p>Public Health will do its best to lower the transmission of the virus and continue to accelerate its efforts to get people vaccinated and boosted. LAC has administered over 1.6 million boosters although there are over 5 million people who are eligible. LAC will continue to enforce indoor masking requirements and masking requirements at mega events.</p>	
--	--	--

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
December 9, 2021**

	<p>LAC is expanding its capacity on testing. There are over 200 testing sites in the County, and they are free for LAC residents. Rapid testing kits and over the counter kits are available too. Public Health wants to remind residents it is important to test before you get together with family for holiday celebrations.</p> <p>For more information and COVID-19 updates visit http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/Coronavirus/</p>	
<p><u>IV. Presentation:</u></p>	<p>PRESENTATION OVERVIEW</p> <p><i>Dr. John Connolly gave a brief overview of the structure of the new initiatives of Medi-Cal waiver in addition to what the County is doing to implement the changes.</i></p> <p>California Advancing and Innovating MediCal (CalAIM) is a new iteration of the Medicaid Demonstration Waiver. This initiative will expand and improve services and coverage to people who wouldn't be able to receive certain services or wouldn't be eligible for Medical. CalAIM will provide new user delivery models and payment models. This is an important initiative that is focused on improving both the quality of care and accessibility of care, along with the integration of care and improving how to perform with equity.</p> <p>CalAIM builds off key reform elements in previous Medi-Cal waivers such as Whole Person Care, Health Homes, Drug Medi-Cal organized Delivery system, PRIME, Coordinated Care Initiative, and Specialty Mental Health Waiver.</p> <p>Key Elements of CalAIM include Enhanced Care Management, Community Supports, Behavioral Health: payment and administrative reform, and Population Health Management Plans.</p> <p>New Managed Care plans include Enhanced Care Management, which is for eligible groups that have vulnerabilities. It will provide a comprehensive set of services across all Medi-Cal benefits. Another part is Community support, which is a set of 14 billable services that Medi-Cal Managed Care plans can assemble a network to provide reduced avoidable high-cost services like hospitalizations or emergency department visits. By allowing Medical Managed Care Plans to add this array of services as an option, it will be</p>	

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
December 9, 2021**

	<p>easy to see whether they provide savings or better outcomes as a result of other avoidable high-cost services. This will also do more in the community as an early intervention.</p> <p>Medical Managed Care plans must have a Population Health Management Plan according to the state and terms of the waiver, developed in partnership with the County Department of Public Health as the local health jurisdiction. Public Health is seeking to become a contractor of the Medical Managed Care Plan to provide enhanced care management. Our Maternal Child and Adolescent Health will obtain a contract with both LA Care and Health Net to be a provider. Public Health Nurses within the Nurse Family Partnership Program are seeking a contract with the Medical Managed Care Plans to provide services to the pregnant women within that program. Although Public Health is not able to launch this by January 1st, contract negotiations are underway.</p> <p>Enhanced Care Management is a new broad care management benefit under Medi-Cal managed care plans. Eligible groups include high utilizers of healthcare services, people with severe mental illness or substance use disorder, as well as people experiencing homelessness, people reentering the community from incarceration, people who are at risk, or with chronic conditions and including children or youth with special or high needs.</p> <p>Community Supports has 14 new optional services. It is meant to yield savings in higher cost services like hospitalizations and ED visits. It is also included as an optional service Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans can elect to offer. Public Health's SAPC is implementing a Sobering Center at the Mark Ridley Thomas Behavioral Health Center.</p> <p>There are a variety of Behavioral health reforms in CalAIM. Historically behavioral health providers in counties have been reimbursed strictly at cost, which made it difficult to advance their delivery systems. With a new payment reform model, it will be geared toward an actual sound rate and tied to quality of service, with the possibility for incentives and delivery system transformation payments. This will help providers build capacity to quality improvement and integrate care more seamlessly across other benefits.</p> <p>The state has agreed to reform medical necessity criteria. Currently, reimbursement does not occur ahead of a diagnosis. Providers have struggled with reimbursement because of</p>	
--	---	--

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
December 9, 2021**

	<p>the work and time that goes into engaging and assessing screening clients before they are diagnosed with a substance use disorder or a mental health condition. The state will soon allow for reimbursement ahead of a diagnosis. In addition, a new standardized screening and assessment tool will be used to help the process.</p> <p>In addition, administrative reforms are in place to reduce documentation requirements and streamline procedures. Standardizing screening and intake assessments, increased data sharing and unifying access line with the No Wrong Door model across both mental health and substance use disorder services will reduce the burden of documentation and streamline requirements.</p> <p>Behavioral Health Continuum Infrastructure Program is providing funding for capital investments. This includes acquisition and improvement of real estate, the renovation to increase the number of beds, increase the number of mobile crisis teams, increase outpatient capacity, and community-based treatment settings across the state.</p> <p>This is an initial startup funding opportunity available to SAPC, as well as DMH. Each will be getting \$150,000 to plan how to leverage this funding opportunity. More funding, to be determined, will be available later to invest in capital projects and service expansion.</p>	
<p><u>V. New Business</u></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of Chair and Vice Chair: Commission Alina Dorian was nominated as Chair and Commissioner Diego Rodrigues was nominated as Vice-Chair. • 2022 Annual Report 	<p><i>Approved</i></p> <p>Will request extension for end of March 2022</p>

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
December 9, 2021**

<u>VI.</u> <u>Unfinished Business</u>		
<u>VII.</u> <u>Public Comment</u>		
<u>VIII.</u> <u>Adjournment</u>	<p><i>MOTION: ADJOURN THE MEETING</i></p> <p><i>The PHC meeting adjourned at approximately 11:53 a.m.</i></p>	<p><i>Commission Colopy called a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and was seconded by Commissioner Crawford. All in favor.</i></p>