

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION
June 8, 2023**

APPROVED

COMMISSIONERS

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

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH REPRESENTATIVES

Barbara Ferrer, Director of Public Health **
 Dr. Muntu Davis, County Health Officer**
 Rita Singhal, Chief Medical Officer*

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ADVISORS

Christina Vane-Perez, Chief of Staff *
 Dawna Treece, PH Commission Liaison*

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

TOPIC		RECOMMENDATION/ACTION/FOLLOW-UP
<u>I.</u> <u>Call to Order</u>	<i>The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. by Chair Rodrigues</i>	<i>Information only.</i>
<u>II.</u> <u>Announcements and Introductions</u>	The Commissioners and DPH staff introduced themselves. Action for May minutes	<i>Information only. May minutes moved to July meeting due to lack of quorum</i>
<u>III.</u> <u>Public Health Report</u>	Dr Rita Singhal, Chief Medical Director Happy Pride Month! In March 2023 the Board of Supervisors directed all county facilities that currently fly the US and California state flags to fly the Progress Pride flag during June as a way of recognizing LA County support for the LGBTQIA community. This Sunday, Public Health will be marching in the LA Pride Parade in Hollywood. DPH would like to extend the invitation to the Commissioners who are interested in attending. The National Association of County or NACo, recognizes innovative county government program that support enhance service for resident. DPH is proud to announce that 14 Public Health programs and initiatives are NACo 2023 Achievement Award winners. To highlight a few:	<i>Department Update</i>

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	<p>Advancing Food Recovery to Reduce Food Waste, harnessing the Power of Narrative to Advance Birth Equity, Telehealth therapeutics program, Sequencing to Save Lives, and Temporary Dentures for Person Experiencing Homelessness. DPH is very proud of our winning teams that are well-deserved.</p> <p>Heart Heroes Campaign</p> <p>Hearth Heroes is a Hands Only CPR (HOCPR) training being implemented across the county. DPH is happy to report that as of two weeks ago, there have been over 100,000 LAC residents that have been trained and aiming to train a total of 500,000 residents by the end of the year. DPH invites the Commissioners to attend one of the community events. There is a list of trainings posted on the website ph.lacounty.gov/heartheroes.</p> <p>New Appointments</p> <p>Public Health welcomes Ben Pham as the new Chief Financial Officer in the Operations Support Bureau. He will oversee DPH's finance operations and develop strategies to optimize financial performance, maintain fiscal stability, increase transparency in the budget process and develop growth opportunities. DPH also welcomes Melissa Bond, who joined the Planning Integration and Engagement (PIE) unit, as the new Director for Resource Development.</p> <p>COVID-19</p> <p>LAC reported 1,902 new cases, which is stable compared to the previous weeks. However, the case numbers are slightly higher due to the number of home tests that are not reported. As of Sunday, the total seven-day average number of COVID hospitalization was 226 and weekly deaths were 46. DPH will continue surveillance of COVID variants, especially new strains with potential increase of COVID transmission. The current circulating strains in LAC are all descendants of Omicron and no rapid rise of a new strain. XBB.1.5 remains the dominant strain in LAC and accounts for 66% of sequenced specimens. An</p>	<p><i>Send link of NACo awards to Commissioners</i></p>

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	<p>updated COVID Response Plan was posted to align with the new phase of the pandemic and the lifting of various emergency declarations. The updated response plan outlines mitigation measures aligned with hospital admission levels as well as the monitoring of preparedness and early alert metrics. The CDC Community levels no longer exists. LAC is currently at a low hospital admission level, with 3 new COVID hospital admission per 100,000 people over seven days. We continue to operate our call center that provides information and resources to all residents requiring assistance, and available daily from 8am-8pm. More info can be found on the Public Health website: http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/media/coronavirus/</p>	
<u>IV. Presentation:</u>	<p>Andrea Welsing, Director OVP and Kelly Fisher gave information on current events and projects on TPI Crisis Response Initiative and Gun Safety.</p> <p>The mission of The Office of Violence Prevention is to strengthen the capacity, collaboration, and partnerships in LAC to prevent multiple forms of violence and to address healing across communities in LAC. OVP was established by the Board in February 2019 and has a governance structure that includes a County leadership and a Community Partnership Council with an average ongoing budget of approximately \$14 million. There are also the American Rescue Plan dollars in the amount of \$30 million in Tranche 1 and Tranche 2 that will allow for the infusion of additional resources over the next 18 months.</p> <p>The Office has 6 implementation priorities that include: Establishing local regional violence prevention coalitions, developing an open data portal that will debut in September, live data portal in the fall, Trauma Prevention Initiative, Crisis Response pilot in South LA, Advancing Trauma Informed Systems Change in the county system. The Office completed a training with the Department of Parks and Recreation, mandated training for multiple items on trauma informed care. OVP will continue to work with county departments to help lift trauma informed practices, policies, and framework, and shifting the narrative on violence and trauma in LAC. Often stories that we hear in the news are reactive and can always illustrate the full</p>	

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	<p>spectrum of what it looks like in the communities. The Storytelling Project continues to work with communication strategist to left up Public Health’s approach to violence prevention and create a full picture on what violence looks like in LAC and what healing needs to look like as well.</p> <p>Trauma Prevention Initiative</p> <p>The Trauma Prevention Initiative is our community based public safety strategy that is currently being developed in the county. It was started in South LA with four unincorporated communities and have been investing in community engagement to make sure that a community has decision making into how other work is implemented. The work is unique needs of communities and peer intervention. With Board support, it is now in nine communities across the county such as Antelope Valley, Hawaiian Gardens, Norwalk, East LA, Puente Valley, and Pomona.</p> <p>Some intervention strategies to highlight includes such as hospital violence intervention. This is partnering with community-based organizations that hire community members with lived experience to provide case management to victims of violence who are in trauma centers. It started with one hospital in 2017 and is now in four hospitals: St. Francis Med Center, LA General Med Center, Harbor UCLA, and Pomona.</p> <p>The Street Outreach and Community Violence intervention includes working with community peacemakers that have credibility and experience to help promote peace. They respond to violent incidents to calm tensions. They provide support to families in the community, rumor control to help from retaliatory violence, provide safe passage to school and parks.</p> <p>In South LA communities between 2016 and 2022, violent crimes in one of the four communities started to decline, two of them remained stable and after violence increased during Covid, in one community there was a sharp increase. However, there was a 33% reduction in the assault related trauma hospital visits between the four LA sites and an overall reduction of 8% in LAC.</p> <p>The Family Assistance Program is a new initiative that was initiated with the DMH. It provides healing, informed support, and variable cost assistance for families who’s lost a loved one due</p>	

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	<p>to a deputy involved shooting or in custody with the Sheriff's department. Happy to state that Clinical Social workers will be part of the Office of Violence Prevention.</p> <p>Gun Violence Prevention Platform</p> <p>The Gun Violence Prevention Platform was established in June 2022 following the deaths in Buffalo, New York and Uvalde, Texas, and the massive shooting in Monterey Park but also in response to day-to-day increases in gun violence in LAC. The Community Partnership Council, County leadership committee and John Baackes, from LA Care participated in the task force developed a 40-point platform and 40 strategies across the board to reduce gun violence in LAC.</p> <p>Four Action Key areas were developed to shift the needle on gun violence in LAC. The taskforce voted and prioritized safety legislation locally and nationally, including the federal ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines, promoting social connections, healing, and a culture of peace through safe spaces and programs that address harm, trauma, and the impact of violence.</p> <p>DPH is currently responding to a Board motion by the fourth district that include components around a public awareness campaign. DPH will make recommendations for funding around that public awareness campaign, around collecting data on gun violence restraining orders, which has been hard to obtain. This will get a baseline number of what is currently happening in LAC. Then a piece around enforcement, including promoting civilian use of restraining orders that can help when someone see signs that someone may be at risk of harming themselves or others.</p> <p>The program is working with partners in planning for the fall for a Teach-In. This will include Charles Drew University. Also, working with the Wellbeing Centers, green centers and DPH youth advisory councils to get youth and students engaged and involved Recently posted a photo contest for "What Does Healing look like in Your Community?". Students will submit photos by June 30th.</p>	

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	<p>The program is asking for support to think of ways to help engage others, including healthcare systems and providers, academic institutions, and others to train and screen for gun safety, or just to be involved in the gun violence prevention platform in any way to raise awareness.</p> <p>Comments/Recommendations:</p> <p>Comm. Rodrigues – The data is very promising and very excited for the tool kits. The Department of Youth Development (DYD) is looking for opportunities for collaboration. Under DHS, the LEAD program, which is the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion, training for those folks and the trauma informed training and the mental health training would be good source. Would love work and identify more ways for folks to get involved.</p> <p>Comm. Dorian – Regarding the Trauma informed training. Who is the audience and who are the learners? This can be applied in many ways. Giving the example of Parks and Recs for their mandated trainings. This can be rolled out on many levels, both in the workplace but also in schools. Having ongoing trainings for learners at university levels and for administrators. Assistance can be offered in rolling this out. Look at partners like CBOs and creating a baseline mandated training. Everyone who gets a grant, or who works with LAC will need to come to the baseline training.</p> <p>There are models to implement trainings and much to think on how to multiply using facilitators and/college students that could possibly run small group sessions. There are a lot of opportunities for students to get involved. Masters-level or doctoral level students can do this. They are leaders. So, thinking of ways to engage them and have them do internships.</p> <p>Looking at Hospital Violence Intervention Program and private hospitals and the concept of the model. Presenting the model to more private hospitals and have them buy into it. Can help with the set up but need to find the community partners that can come in.</p>	

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<u>V. New Business</u>		
<u>VI. Unfinished Business</u>		
<u>VII. Public Comment</u>	Public member, D.O., advised she can help with technology, but has been ill-treated by the state for developing the technology.	<i>The public member provided resources and contact information from DPH for further collaboration.</i>
<u>VIII. Adjournment</u>	MOTION: ADJOURN THE MEETING <i>The PHC meeting adjourned at approximately 12:10pm.</i>	<i>Commissioner Rodrigues called a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and was seconded by Commissioner Dorian.</i>