

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
 PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
 MARCH 22, 2012  
 MINUTES

**COMMISSIONERS**

**Michelle Anne Bholat, M.D., M.P.H., Chairperson\***  
**Patrick Dowling M.D., M.P.H., Vice-Chair\***  
**Waleed W. Shindy M.D., M.P.H.\***

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES REPRESENTATIVE**

**Jonathan E. Fielding, Director of Public Health and Health Officer\*\*\***  
**Angela Haley, Secretary\***  
 Public Health Commission

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION ADVISOR**

**Jonathan E. Freedman, Chief Deputy\***  
 Public Health

**PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION YOUTH ADVISOR**

Vacant

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

| TOPIC                          | DISCUSSION/FINDINGS  | RECOMMENDATION/ACTION/<br>FOLLOW-UP |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <p><b>I. CALL TO ORDER</b></p> | <p>The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:06 a.m. by Chairperson Bholat at Central Health Center.</p> | <p>Information only.</p>            |

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| <b>II. ANNOUNCEMENTS &amp;<br/>INTRODUCTIONS</b> | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Introductions of Commissioners and guests were conducted.</i></p>   | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Information only.</i></p>  |
| <b>III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>                  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION: APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 8, 2011 MINUTES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION: APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 8, 2011 MINUTES</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>MOTION: APPROVAL OF JANUARY 12, 2012 MINUTES</b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Chairperson Bholat entertained a motion from Commissioner Shindy, seconded by Vice-Chairperson Dowling and carried unanimously.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Chairperson Bholat entertained a motion from Vice-Chairperson Dowling, seconded by Commissioner Shindy and carried unanimously.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Chairperson Bholat entertained a motion from Commissioner Shindy, seconded by Chairperson Bholat and carried unanimously</i></p> |

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| <p>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT</p> | <p>Jonathan Freedman provided the Commission with a Public Health Report and discussed public health activities since the last report on March 8, 2012.</p> <p><b>Budget - Update</b></p> <p>Mr. Freedman provided the Commission with an update of DPH's budget. DPH had their budget hearing with the CEO, and as a result of that hearing there's good news where DPH worked out a solution that helps DPH to avoid any workforce impact for the next fiscal year. Also, there's not a lot of cuts on the table for DPH, but there's still some potential risks, such as, vehicle license fees which affects DPH and other county departments.</p> <p>Mr. Freedman indicated the good news short term is that DPH have a much better budgetary position going into the next fiscal year then we have had the last few fiscal years.</p> |                                     |

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| <p><b>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT<br/>CONTINUED</b></p> | <p><b>Medication Assisted Therapy</b></p> <p>Mr. Freedman discussed the above subject memo and indicated that the Board approved to extend the use of Vivitrol and instructed DPH to report back in 90-days on policy changes needed to expand the availability of Vivitrol in public coverage programs such as Medi-Cal and on recommendations of how Vivitrol can be purchased by contract providers at the most affordable price.</p> <p>DPH has been working with a number of agencies to expand the availability of Vivitrol in L.A. County.</p> <p>DPH is working with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to include Vivitrol in treating co-occurring mental health and substance use disorder for persons in the County's Public Safety Realignment Program (under Assembly Bill 109). On February 21, 2012, DMH and DPH submitted a proposal to make an initial Vivitrol dose available to prisoners released to the County and entering treatment for co-occurring disorders under the AB 109 program. The proposal is currently under consideration by the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The needed administrative changes may take several months to implement.</p> |   |

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| <p><b>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT CONTINUED</b></p> | <p><i>As instructed by the Board, DPH will provide a 12-month report on items, including the implementation of pilot projects for use of Vivitrol and other medication-assisted treatment approaches with drinking-driver offenders and in jail and probation settings. Also, included in the report will be results from the evaluation conducted by the Integrated Substance Abuse Program at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). The evaluation focuses on the efficacy of Vivitrol as a cost-effective approach to improve medium and long term patient outcomes. The study design has passed the Institutional Review Boards at DPH and UCLA, and patient data collection has begun.</i></p> |   |

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| <p><b>V. DPH HOMELESS COORDINATOR</b></p> | <p>Elizabeth Norris, DPH Homeless Coordinator, provided the Commission with an update of the activities within DPH Homeless Program.</p> <p>Homelessness and Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homeless individuals experience higher rates of health, mental health and substance abuse issues than the general population.</li> <li>• These issues may continue toward a person becoming homeless (e.g., should they lose their source of income/housing due to serious illness)</li> <li>• As well, homeless individuals are exposed to a variety of communicable diseases due to unstable living conditions and lack of access to healthcare.</li> </ul> <p>DPH Homeless Coordinator Role</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Works with DPH Programs to coordinate DPH response to homeless issue</li> <li>• Represents DPH on Countywide committees focused on homelessness</li> <li>• Collaborates with coalitions, projects and partnerships addressing health needs of homeless population in L.A. County</li> </ul> |   |

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| <p><b>V. DPH HOMELESS COORDINATOR<br/>CONTINUED</b></p> | <p>HUD Definition of Homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People living in places not meant for human habitation</li> <li>• People being evicted from their primary nighttime residence within 14 days who lack resources or support networks</li> <li>• Families with children or unaccompanied youth less than 25 who are unstably housed</li> <li>• People fleeing domestic violence who lack resources or support networks to obtain housing</li> </ul> <p>Factors Contributing to Homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing of state mental hospitals in the 1980s released folks with mental illness onto the streets</li> <li>• Unemployment/underemployment</li> <li>• Not enough affordable housing</li> <li>• Restrictions to accessing affordable housing</li> </ul> <p>Impact of Economic Downturn on Homelessness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foreclosure crisis</li> <li>• High unemployment/underemployment</li> <li>• Poverty rate increases to 15.7% in L.A. County</li> <li>• Level or decreasing funding for services</li> </ul> |   |

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| <p><b>V. DPH HOMELESS COORDINATOR<br/>CONTINUED</b></p> | <p><i>How Many Homeless Live in L.A. County?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Best estimates probably come from Homeless Counts required by HUD</li> <li>• HUD requires each continuum of care requesting funding for homeless services to conduct a point in time street count of homeless individuals every two years.</li> <li>• In 2011 Homeless Count, 51,340 homeless individuals counted in L.A. County</li> </ul> <p><i>Sheltered and Unsheltered</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L.A. County has largest unsheltered homeless population in the country:</li> <li>• 63% are unsheltered</li> <li>• 37% are sheltered</li> </ul> <p><i>Chronically Homeless</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chronically homeless means long-term or repeated homelessness</li> <li>• Most chronically homeless have one or more disabling conditions (health, mental health, substance use)</li> <li>• 24% of homeless in L.A. County are chronically homeless</li> </ul> |                                     |



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| <p><b>V.DPH HOMELESS COORDINATOR<br/>CONTINUED</b></p> | <p>Costs of Homeless vs. Housed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Where We Sleep study (2009) by L.A. Economic Roundtable compared typical public costs for people in supportive housing vs. similar homeless individuals</i></li> <li>• <i>Public costs higher for older homeless adults</i></li> </ul> <p>Recent Efforts to Reduce Homelessness in L.A. County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homeless Prevention Initiative</li> <li>• Special Needs Housing Alliance</li> <li>• United Homeless Healthcare Partners</li> <li>• Home for Good</li> </ul> <p>Homeless Prevention Initiative (HPI)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>In 2005, Los Angeles had largest homeless population in the country</i></li> <li>• <i>In response to this, in April 2006, the L.A. County Board of Supervisors approved \$100 million Homeless Prevention Initiative</i></li> <li>• <i>Funded 27 programs in partnership with County Departments, LAHSA and various cities aimed at preventing and reducing homelessness</i></li> </ul> |   |

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| <p><b>V.DPH HOMELESS COORDINATOR<br/>CONTINUED</b></p> | <p>Project 50</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HPI demonstration project to identify 50 most chronic and vulnerable homeless individuals on Skid Row and place them into housing with services</li> <li>• Determine if this is a sustainable model for housing the chronically homeless population</li> <li>• In conjunction with CEO's office, collaboration between DHS, DMH, DPH and housing provider</li> <li>• Found chronically homeless could be stably housed if provided with services they needed</li> </ul> <p>United Homeless Health Project (UHHP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is a network of healthcare providers, permanent supportive housing providers, social services agencies, and etc.</li> <li>• Works on issues and practices surrounding the policies, funding, planning, and delivery of health</li> </ul> |                                     |

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| <p><b>V.DPH HOMELESS COORDINATOR<br/>CONTINUED</b></p> | <p>Public Health Homeless Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DPH Homeless Coordinator, as well as representatives from DPH work closely with County departments and coalitions</li> <li>• DPH programs providing services or outreach to homeless individuals include:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Acute Communicable Disease Control</li> <li>• Community Medical Services</li> <li>• Community Health Services</li> <li>• Environmental Health</li> <li>• Substance Abuse Prevention and Control</li> <li>• Division of HIV and STD Programs</li> <li>• Tuberculosis Control Program</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>DPH Homeless Coordination Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to work with other County departments and coalitions to align resources to improve services for homeless individuals and families</li> <li>• Improve internal data collection to ensure DPH programs are accurately capturing data on homeless individuals served and referrals made</li> <li>• Prepare public health homeless brief using Los Angeles Health Survey data when it becomes available later this year.</li> </ul> |                                     |

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| <p><b>V.DPH HOOMELESS COORDINATOR<br/>CONTINUED</b></p> | <p><i>Commissioner Shindy asked is DPH Homeless Program doing anything directly to deal with mental illness. Ms. Norris indicated DMH have programs to deal with people with mental illness and provide referrals. Mr. Freedman indicated also DMH receives funds from Proposition 63 to assist the mentally ill. DMH has invested in a 24 hours drop-in center capability for the SSI population, who have not taken medication in the locations of Long Beach and Northeast L.A.</i></p> <p><i>Commissioner Shindy asked how successful has Project 50 been. Ms. Norris indicated its considered to be a successful model project.</i></p> <p><i>Vice-Chairperson Dowling asked is Project 50 taking new enrollees. Ms. Norris indicated when someone leaves, they are replaced. Mr. Freedman indicated he will investigate and provide the information to the Commission on the expansion of Project 50.</i></p> |   |

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| <p><b>V,DPH HOMELESS COORDINATOR<br/>CONTINUED</b></p> | <p><i>Chairperson Bholat asked does Homeless Program have demographics of the homeless population. Ms. Norris indicated she hasn't seen any reports on the demographics and doesn't have any data, but she believes the information can be found on ladhs.org website.</i></p> <p><i>The Commission thanked Ms. Norris for a comprehensive presentation.</i></p> |   |

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| <p><b>VI. NEW BUSINESS</b></p> | <p>The Commission and Mr. Freedman discussed the possibility of the Commission conducting future meetings via teleconferencing.</p> <p>The Commission discussed DPH programs they would like to have present to the Commission.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.</p> | <p>Mr. Freedman will inquire with the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors regarding the possibility of the Public Health Commission conducting future meetings via teleconferencing.</p> <p>Angela Haley, Commission Staff, will provide a list of previous presentations and future presentations that the Commission is interested in.</p> |