

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSION  
MAY 24, 2012  
MINUTES

**APPROVED**

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.\*\*  
Jean G. Champommier, Ph.D.\*

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/ FOLLOW-UP
I. CALL TO ORDER	The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:04 a.m. by Vice-Chairperson Dowling at Central Health Center.	Information only.

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<p><b>II. ANNOUNCEMENTS &amp; INTRODUCTIONS</b></p>	<p><i>Introductions of Commissioners and guests were conducted.</i></p>	<p><i>Information only.</i></p>
<p><b>III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b></p>	<p><b>MOTION: APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 26, 2012 MINUTES</b></p>	<p><i>Chairperson Bholat entertained a motion from Vice-Chairperson Dowling, seconded by Commissioner Champommier and carried unanimously.</i></p>

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<p><b>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT</b></p>	<p>Jonathan Freedman provided the Commission with a Public Health Report and discussed public health activities since the last report on April 26, 2012.</p> <p><b>Legislative Update</b></p> <p>Mr. Freedman informed the Commission of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Congress established an ongoing funding source for public health activities known as the Prevention and Public Health Fund (PPHF). The PPHF invests in the nation's public health system, funding prevention, wellness, and core public health activities. Mr. Freedman indicated that the bad news is that the PPHF has already been a target for cuts and proposed elimination.</p> <p><b>Update on Implementation of the Food Vehicle Inspection Grading Ordinance</b></p> <p>Vehicle letter grading is being implemented in two phases. Phase 1 applies to high-risk food vehicles and was initiated in November 2010. As directed by the Board, once Phase 1</p>	

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<p><b>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT                      CONTINUED</b></p>	<p>is completed, and prior to implementing Phase 2, the Department is to report back on actual program workload and costs, any necessary adjustments in permit fees, regulatory issues identified in consultation with the industry, and proposed program improvements. The Department anticipate providing the Phase 1 report to the Board in November 2012.</p> <p>Conducting unannounced inspections is based on information provided by operators identifying the location where they are operating. To date, 20% of food vehicle operators have made such disclosures and much of the information has been incomplete or inaccurate.</p> <p><b>Consumer Protection</b></p> <p>The Board directed Dr. Fielding to report back on efforts to inform the public of safe and effective alternative methods to achieve and maintain a healthier weight; develop a plan to identify medical products and services that are being marketed in a dangerously misleading manner; and the current regulatory environment framework. Mr. Freedman indicated included in the memo is a list that the Board asked the Department to identify other risky areas of non-recommended clinical prevention services, U.S. Preventive Services Task Force, such as, abdominal aortic aneurysm in women.</p>	

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<p><b>IV. PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT CONTINUED</b></p>	<p><b>Mislabeled Seafood Sold in Restaurants and Grocery Stores</b></p> <p>The Department of Public Health (DPH) was directed to make contact with federal and State agencies to identify gaps in local seafood import inspections that may be strengthened through collaborative agency efforts. DPH was further directed to assess the feasibility of Public Health's use of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA's) specialized laboratories for testing imported fish. The Board requested that DPH report back on the actions that can be taken by the County, State, and federal agencies to address the fraudulent and unsafe wholesale and retail practices referenced in recent press reports.</p> <p><b>Los Angeles County Condom Campaign and Condom Distribution Program</b></p> <p>On May 21, 2012, DPH, launched a condom campaign and distribution program to encourage condom use by providing free condoms in areas of L.A. County that are disproportionately impacted by HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). The campaign is modeled after the successful New York City (NYC) Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's condom program, in which the Department hosted a design contest to create a NYC branded condom.</p>	

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<p>V. VETERINARY PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM (VPHP)</p>	<p>Dr. Karen Ehnert, Acting Director, Veterinary Public Health Program (VPHP), provided the Commission with an update of activities within VPHP.</p> <p><u>Vision:</u> The residents of L.A. County are protected from zoonoses and County animals are free of reportable diseases.</p> <p><u>Mission:</u> To protect the health and wellbeing of the residents of L.A. County by surveillance and control of zoonoses to investigate and control all reportable animal disease, and enforce applicable laws and ordinances.</p> <p><u>Budget:</u> VPHP budget is approximately \$1.7 million. We have a staff of 19 employees.</p> <p><b>Legally Mandated Duties</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rabies Control: Animal bites, animals exposed to wildlife, rabies suspects, and border entry</li> <li>• Animal Disease Surveillance: Zoonotic diseases, foreign animal diseases, and outbreaks or unusual conditions</li> </ul>	

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<p><b>V. VPHP CONTINUED</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Disease Response animal related: Control animal disease and outbreaks, cooperate with CA Department of Food &amp; Agriculture, and animal response planning and coordination.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>New Focus Area</b></p> <p><b>2020 Healthy Pets Healthy Families</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>One Health Initiative</i></li> <li>• <i>Goal: Improve human and animal health</i></li> <li>• <i>Components: Community engagement, collaborative interventions, monitor impact, and identify best practices.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Changes, Challenges and Successes</b></p> <p><b>Rabies Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Change: New risk based rabies control procedures</i></li> <li>• <i>Why are we making the changes?</i></li> <li>• <i>Procedures due back to 1950's</i></li> <li>• <i>Canine rabies strain eliminated from USA</i></li> <li>• <i>Wildlife – reservoir for rabies</i></li> <li>• <i>Globalization and travel has created new risks</i></li> </ul>	

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<p><b>V. VPHP CONTINUED</b></p>	<p>Dr. Ehnerf discussed the following charts that displayed data of rabies in L.A. County:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Animal Rabies in L.A. County, 1922-2011</i></li> <li>• <i>Rabid Animals in L.A. County by Species, 1980-2011</i></li> <li>• <i>Reported Animal Bites in L.A. County, 2001-2011</i></li> <li>• <i>Historical Local Bite Reporting – Number Animal Bites per 1,000 population – L.A. County, 1991-2009</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Implementation after major increase in bat rabies</i></li> <li>• <i>New information sharing with animal control may lead to decreased reporting.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Rabies Control</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Expand on LAX Animal Importation Collaboration</i></li> <li>• <i>Shared CDC PH Associate</i></li> <li>• <i>Cargo Operations Meeting &amp; Survey</i></li> <li>• <i>New Requirement: Pre-notification of shipments</i></li> <li>• <i>Visit Survey at SFO</i></li> <li>• <i>L.A. City Animal Services potential assistance</i></li> </ul>	



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V.VPHP CONTINUED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Success:</li> <li>• Reduced problem shipments</li> <li>• Challenges:</li> <li>• Associate leaving</li> <li>• New L.A. City Ordinance</li> </ul> <p><b>Animal Disease Surveillance: Continued Focus on Collaboration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TB positive skin tests in a chimp</li> <li>• Several waterfowl die offs</li> <li>• Canine illnesses associated with Imported Chicken Jerky</li> <li>• FDA taking reports and testing treats</li> <li>• Equine Herpes Virus 1 - outbreak</li> <li>• Coordinated with CDFA</li> </ul> <p><b>Animal Disease Surveillance Continued Focus on Collaboration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Imported Leishmaniasis – rescue dog from Turkey, Veterinarian Animal Control assisting with follow up.</li> <li>• Lyme Disease – Seropositive dogs. Antech and Vector Management Program assisting with tick collection and testing.</li> </ul>	

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<p>V.VPHP CONTINUED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Flea-borne Disease in Downtown – future survey of downtown dog owners</li> </ul> <p><b>Animal Disease Surveillance: Tracking Emerging Pathogens</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animals are sentinels for presence of pathogen in environment</li> <li>• Animal illness reports trigger investigations</li> <li>• Goals: To characterize ecology and prevalence of pathogen in vectors animals and people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique Animal Health Ordinances</li> <li>• Staff turnover at CDFA – lack of awareness of our program</li> <li>• Limited lab testing capacity – CAHFS lab in San Bernardino</li> <li>• Staffing</li> </ul> <p><b>Disaster Preparedness</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal Disaster Plan – VPH role: Shelter Assessment &amp; Animal Disease Control</li> <li>• Exercise Participation</li> <li>• TAG &amp; BioWatch</li> <li>• Syndromic Surveillance</li> </ul>	

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<p>V. VPHP CONTINUED</p>	<p><b>Disaster Preparedness Challenges</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal Disaster Response: Coordinator staff changes at County</li> <li>• Their response capacity is limited</li> <li>• Syndromic Surveillance:</li> <li>• Not automated, Not primarily for shelter staff, and VPH staffing</li> </ul> <p><b>What is 2012 Healthy Pets Healthy Families?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• L.A. County One Health Initiative</li> <li>• Modeled after Healthy People 2020</li> <li>• Goal: Improve human and animal health</li> </ul> <p><b>What are we trying to do? MAP-IT Framework</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mobilize – Develop collaborative</li> <li>• Assess – Gather data &amp; set local animal health goals</li> <li>• Plan – Identify best interventions</li> <li>• Implement – Jointly implement programs/campaigns</li> <li>• Track – Monitor impact and progress</li> </ul> <p><b>Initial Focus Areas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bite Prevention</li> <li>• Spay-neuter requirement</li> <li>• Pet Obesity</li> </ul>	

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<b>V.VPH CONTINUED</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Second hand smoke</i></li> <li>• <i>Vaccine preventable diseases</i></li> <li>• <i>Disaster preparedness</i></li> <li>• <i>Zoonotic Disease Prevention</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Develop local animal health data</i></li> <li>• <i>In person surveys</i></li> <li>• <i>Distributed surveys</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Pets &amp; Obesity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Growing problem in people and pets</i></li> <li>• <i>55% of adults in L.A. County</i></li> <li>• <i>54% of pets in U.S.</i></li> <li>• <i>Obesity in pets and people may be linked</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Dr. Ehnert discussed the charts on dog shelter survey results in dog obesity, dog walking, and food availability.</i></p>	

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<p>V.VPHP CONTINUED</p>	<p><b>Pet Owner Perception</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22% of dog owners, 15% of cat owners think pet is at normal weight when actually it is overweight obese.</li> </ul> <p><b>Why are we concerned about pet obesity?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excess weight increases chronic disease risk for both people and pets.</li> <li>• Osteoarthritis, diabetes, high blood pressure, heart and respiratory disease, kidney disease, cranial cruciate ligament injury, and some cancers.</li> </ul> <p><b>How can addressing pet obesity also improve human health?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog walking/running helps people meet recommended amount of physical activity</li> <li>• A dog is a consistent positive influence initiating exercise and adding enjoyment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Initiative Goals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Decrease pet obesity &amp; related chronic conditions by encouraging owners to exercise pets and limit food intake</li> <li>• Ultimately increase the proportion of pet owners that meet physical activity guidelines</li> </ul>	

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<p>V.VPHP CONTINUED</p>	<p><b>Current Directions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Built Environment and Barriers to Walking Survey</li> <li>• Collaborating with PLACE physical activity, health assessment and senior health</li> <li>• Walking Clubs: Developing connection to SPA 6 PHNs, Parks After Dark Program</li> <li>• Attended Parks Department Summit</li> </ul> <p><b>Pets &amp; Vaccine Preventable Diseases</b></p> <p><b>Dog Shelter Survey Results: Dog Vaccinations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In general do you think dogs should be vaccinated: 99% said Yes</li> <li>• Have you ever vaccinated this dog against rabies? (include only dogs 6 months of age). 13% said No.</li> </ul> <p><b>Current Direction</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration with L.A. City Animal Services</li> <li>• Used Parvo data to identify locations for free pet vaccination clinics</li> <li>• Non-profits also providing spay/neuter services</li> </ul>	

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<p>V.VPH CONTINUED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VPH surveying dog owners re: barriers to pet immunizations</li> </ul> <p><b>Summary: Vision for the Future</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continual evolution and process improvement</li> <li>• Improve surveillance capacity</li> <li>• Expand collaboration</li> <li>• Improve data to guide our actions</li> <li>• Increase prevention based activities</li> </ul> <p>Vice-Chairperson Dowling asked is there a cause to worry in regards to superficial scratches. Dr. Ehnert indicated no, it's not a tetanus issue.</p> <p>Commissioner Champommier asked if VPHP has any connection with Boyle Heights in regards to the Parks After Dark Program. Dr. Ehnert indicated no, VPHP has just started collaborating with SPA 6 on this program, but they would be willing to connect with staff from Boyle Heights on a collaborative effort.</p>	

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<b>V.VPHP CONTINUED</b>	<p> <i>Chairperson Bholat thanked Dr. Ehnert for an excellent presentation and all of the valuable information that she presented to the Commission. Also, she indicated this is one of the best presentations that the Commission has heard in a long time.</i> </p> <p> <i>The meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.</i> </p>	