

Sacramento County Public Health Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Aug 5, 2020, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Meeting Location

Zoom Meeting (Open to the Public)

Moderator: Dr. Farla Kaufman

Scribe: Steven Orkand

Board Attendees: Jennifer Anderson, Jofil Borja, Sandy Damiano (ex-officio), Paula Green, Steve Heath, Farla Kaufman, Barbara Law, Steven Orkand, Sonal Patel, Jeff Rabinovitz, Christina Slee, Phil Summers, Jack Zwald

Board Members Excused: Annie Tat

Board Members Absent: Olivia Kasirye (ex-officio), Emanuel Petrisor, Kathleen Wright

Guests: Herman Barahona, Gail Brosnan, Elisa Herrera

Meeting Opened: 12:00 PM

Welcome and Introductions: Dr. Kaufman welcomed all Board members and guests. There are no vacancies on PHAB.

Review of Minutes: The Minutes of the July meeting were approved as submitted, with one abstention.

Candidates for HIV Health

Services Planning Council: Dr. Kaufman proposed one new candidate for the HIV Health Services Planning Council:

Tracy Jenkins to Seat 13

There were no objections, and Tracy was approved by unanimous vote.

Public Health Update: There were no representatives from the Division present for this report.

Primary Health Update:

Dr. Damiano, Deputy Director, Primary Health Division, reported. A copy of the Adult Correctional Health Report for 2019-2020 was sent to each member prior to the meeting. It has an overview of services, including COVID-19-related services. This is the first report ever prepared by Correctional Health. There has been some increases in COVID cases in the Jail since the last report. As of Aug 1, 2518 COVID tests had been completed. As of August 4, there were 36 cases, 16 of whom were still in custody. All cases were detected in the intake quarantine unit, and transferred to an isolation pod. Suspicious cases from the general population were also transferred to isolation pods. There were no cases of general transmission.

EMS has mobile medical shelters, which have been deployed to Kaiser North, Primary Care Center, Mercy San Juan, Dameron Hospital in Stockton, and Amador County. These are useful for screening and testing of people presenting to these centers. They have proven very useful by creating extra, designated space for suspicious cases. EMS is also distributing personal protective equipment (PPE). So far, they have distributed over 8.2 million pieces within Sacramento County to various health care entities, behavior health, etc.

The Women, Infants & Children (WIC) program continues to work virtually, which has been successful. Their caseload remains increased at 98.5%. Pre-COVID it was 74%. This reflects the level of unemployment. The program just underwent a State review, and there were no adverse findings.

The County Public Health dashboard reports that there have been 10,174 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of August 3, with 148 deaths. CalREDIE, the testing reporting system, has had delays. This leads to questions about the accuracy of data.

Steve Orkand asked if the case report from the Jail included Staff. It did not, but there have been no Staff coming down with COVID. A couple of Deputies developed COVID, but these cases were not contracted from the Jail. Steve also asked about preparedness for the upcoming flu season at the Jail. Sandy said they are currently reviewing that. It remains to be seen who should be immunized, since they have so many short-term prisoners. Steve suggested that the flu vaccine be offered widely, even to short-termers.

Special Report: Latino Leadership Council

**Guest Speakers: Herman Barahona, President of the Board, Latino Leadership Council
Elisa Herrera, Executive Director, Latino Leadership Council**

The Latino Leadership Council is the only Latino-focused non-profit in the area that has a team of *promotorés* that reach out to the Latino community and offer home visits and case-management for health-related matters, including vision, dental health, and nutrition. They are partnered with clinics, hospitals, and other non-profits. The *promotorés* evaluate cases and do a warm hand-off to these partner organizations. They started in Placer County, but now do quite a bit of work in north Sacramento County. Once they've done a home visit, they refer clients, then meet them at the doctor's office to assist with communication. They help the client with follow up care as well. They serve about 500 families each year. They are working with the COVID population at present. They help by picking up and delivering boxes of food to sheltering families, principally in Placer County. They deliver 50-75 boxes per week. They also pick up and deliver school lunches to their families. They are partnered with United Latinos. Funding comes largely from Placer County. They also receive money from Sutter, Kaiser, First 5 Placer, various churches and other non-profits. There are 12 *promotorés* and 3 administrative staff. They are also working on other projects, including gang-prevention. Some of their work is in the evenings. Some of their clients are connected to the Healthy Partners program in Sacramento County.

Jofil Borja asked whether their clients find that the medical providers in Sacramento County are culturally competent. Elisa said that a survey of Kaiser Members revealed some difficulty connecting with the Spanish-speaking doctor. Many clients don't feel comfortable with online translators. Steve Orkand advised that the Kaiser patients should call in advance to assure a translator is present. Dr. Kaufman pointed out that Spanish-speaking doctors are not always matched with Spanish-speaking patients.

Herman Barahona works with United Latinos, a non-profit that focuses on environmental justice. He notes that the North Sacramento region served by the Latino Leadership Council also contains environmental justice zones with serious air pollution problems. There are almost 130,000 Latinos living in the North Sacramento area and they need services. This includes South Natomas, Rio Linda, North Highlands, Antelope and Citrus Heights. Herman asked how the Latino Leadership Council could successfully reach out and partner with other non-profits and County agencies. They have already met with Supervisors Frost and Serna, Dr. Beilenson, Dr. Kasirye, with Elica and some other non-profits. Jofil Borja wondered whether they had already made contact with FQHCs. Phil Summers wondered how to contact the Latino Leadership Council when he has appropriate patients in the emergency department. Elisa suggested their website. There is an online referral form. Jeff Rabinovitz wondered if PHAB should write a letter of support to the Board of Supervisors.

Ad Hoc Committee Update on PHAB's COVID Effort

Jofil Borja, Sonal Patel and Annie Tat have been meeting with Farla to discuss PHAB's efforts to contribute to public education about COVID-19 prevention measures. There has been lots of concern about the behaviors of young people that have made them more susceptible to infection. There has also been tremendous spread of the virus in the Latinx community. Annie has been in touch with a group called Young Ambassadors, and they have expressed an interest in spreading the word by social media. Funding is being sought from Cares Act money, but is not yet secure. Jofil reported that Sac Republic FC and the Sacramento Kings have offered material and publicity assistance. Multicultural cable stations have also been contacted and may help. Caltrans will reinforce positive health messages via their billboards. Details of all this should be available by the next meeting. The school boards may participate by sponsoring contests available to the students when they return to school. The Delores Huerte Foundation may prepare a video publicizing the necessity of masking and social distancing. Ms. Huerte is very influential in the older Latinx community.

Public Reaction to Public Health Measures

Paula Green has been following public reaction on social media, principally Facebook, regarding recent public health measures as they relate to school opening and other COVID-related matters. She reports tremendous anger. Many have lost trust in our public health system. She wonders if there is anything we can do to approach the online skeptics in an effort to bridge the trust gap. She feels that our Board has views fairly in synch with the standard public health approach and we're not fully aware of the feelings of our friends and neighbors. There has been a huge outcry regarding the question of school opening. She wonders if there are better ways to share good information with these well-meaning people.

Steve Orkand lamented the politicization of public health/scientific views and directives. He wondered whether the Public Health Department has conducted enough public forums to share science-based information. There is a risk that they will be attacked in non-productive ways. Farla will bring the issue back to the Executive Committee for further discussion.

Bylaws Consideration

Current PHAB Bylaws provide for a standing Executive Committee with four members. Unfortunately, this makes it difficult to conduct business without violating the Brown Act. Therefore, the Executive Committee proposes that the Committee be expanded to 5 members: One chair, one vice-chair, and three members at large. It was moved and seconded to accept the proposed changes. It was unanimously approved.

New Executive Committee Member

There is now a vacancy on the Executive Committee. Jack Zwald nominated Sonal Patel to be on the Executive Committee. She accepted the nomination. There were no other nominations. A vote was taken, and Sonal received unanimous Board support. The Executive Committee now consists of:

Farla Kaufman, Chair
Christina Slee, Vice-Chair
Steven Orkand, Member
Emanuel Petrisor, Member
Sonal Patel, Member

Letter to Support Public Health Funding

In February, Staci Syas, Director of the County's STD Program, described current County efforts to prevent and treat sexually transmitted diseases. In the last year the Division of Public Health applied for multiple grants to support these STD efforts. These were from the Federal Government, the State of California, and private agencies. Nine applications were successful, worth a minimum of \$10 million over 5 years. Unfortunately, there is a hiring moratorium

which prevents the Division from spending some of these funds. A letter was prepared by the Executive Committee, directed to the County Executive and the Board of Supervisors, encouraging the lifting of the moratorium so that the grant money may be spent. A vote was taken, and the letter was unanimously approved. It will be sent to the intended addressees.

Public Comment

There was none.

Adjournment

Farla adjourned the meeting at 1:38 PM

Submitted by Steven Orkand, Scribe