

Public Health Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

September 1st, 2021 12-1:30PM

Meeting Location

Zoom Meeting (Open to the Public)

Moderator: Farla Kaufman

Scribes: Liz Gomez

Meeting Opened: 12:05 PM

Those attending: Farla Kaufman, Steven Heath, Christina Slee, Chase Smith, Ashley Sterlin, Phil Summers, Barbara Law, Larissa May, Jofil Borja, Elisabeth Abbott

Those not in attendance: Emanuel Petrisor

Board Members excused: Sonal Patel

Other County Leadership: Sandy Damiano, Dr. Kasirye, Andrew Mendoza, Lori Miller, Lynn Svensson

Review of Minutes: Meeting minutes approved as submitted

YouTube link for the minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KTNQPOtLS54>

Farla Update

We have two PHAB members that will be attending the First 5 and the Human Services Coordinating Council so that's a very good thing and hopefully they will like it enough to become the representatives for PHAB on those boards.

Juvenile Correctional Health: COVID-19 Update - Sandy Damiano, PhD

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)

- Received a ***WIC Breastfeeding Award of Excellence*** for its Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Program. This is one of four **GOLD** Awards that were given to the Western Region of the United States. WIC also received this award in 2012.
- Finalizing a 2021 WIC Report.

Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

- Dr. Hernando Garzon was named ***EMS Medical Director of 2020*** by the State EMS Authority. This was due to Dr. Garzon's local and state-wide leadership during the COVID-19 response.
- Received 2.0 FTE positions during Approved Budget (EMS Coordinator and EMS Specialist). Also received a 1.0 FTE HS Planner for Emergency Preparedness (through Public Health funding).

These positions are the result of advocacy and support through the Emergency Services Advisory Group and PHAB. Hiring in process. *Thank you!*

Juvenile Correctional Health

- Health care services provided at the Youth Detention Facility has received **accreditation through the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC)**. This was a big lift!

COVID-19 Snapshot for Detention Facilities

<i>Juvenile Correctional Health</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total confirmed throughout pandemic: 48• Total tests for period of 8/22 – 8/28: 29• Census as of 8/30/21: 109• Youth vaccinated as of 8/27/21: 59• Incentive Program began in mid-July.

<i>Adult Correctional Health</i>
As of August 25, 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total number of COVID-19 tests since March 2020: 20,920 (<i>Net increase = 356</i>)• Total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases since March 2020: 1,863 (<i>Net increase = 11</i>)• Total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases during the intake observation/quarantine period since March 2020: 437 (<i>Net increase = 10</i>)• Total number of COVID-19 positive inmates currently in custody: Main Jail – 13 / RCCC – 2

Vaccination Data – Inmates

As of 8/25/21, 1,999 inmates received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose. (*Net increase = 21*)

Facility	Total Patients	Total Doses	Completed Vaccine Series			Fully Vaccinated
			Moderna	Janssen	Pfizer	
Main Jail	1,163	1,549	386	594	1	981
RCCC	836	1,134	298	404	2	704
Total	1,999	2,683	684	998	3	1,685

1,303 inmates refused vaccination. [This data includes local and federal inmates. Nursing staff provide education about the vaccine when approaching inmates and respond to questions. Inmates who refuse are re-approached. This is a cumulative number since the inmate vaccination program began on 01/29/21. Total includes inmates who are no longer incarcerated.]

Inmate Vaccine Incentive Program - Provides a fiscal incentive for completed vaccinations. Money is placed in inmates commissary. Funds were provided by Public Health. Daily logistics – Adult Correctional Health / Custody (places funds in inmate accounts) per tracking sheet. \$10 Janssen, \$5 each for Moderna/Pfizer for a total of \$10.

Vaccination Data – Staff

As of 8/25/21, 456 healthcare/SSO staff received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose. (*Net increase = 1*)

Staff Vaccinations	Totals
Total Doses Administered	873
Total Staff	456
Fully Vaccinated Staff	434

This data does not include: staff who received vaccines offsite or mental health staff who received vaccines through UC Davis.

State Public Health Order for Correctional/Detention Facilities

State Public Health Officer Order related to Correctional Facilities (dated 08/19/21) with full compliance by October 14. [Order of the State Public Health Officer Correctional Facilities and Detention Centers Health Care Worker Vaccination Order](#)

- Requires vaccinations (health care staff, correctional officers and inmate workers)
- Vaccination verification, or a qualified medical exemption
- Weekly testing for those not vaccinated or who will not disclose.

Vaccination verification system - Has rolled out.

Testing sites - Meetings are in process to arrange logistics (Adult Correctional Health, Public Health, Jail & YDF staff representatives).

Jail Consultants related to BOS Report 03/10/21

- *Building* – Consultants working on report. No fixed timeline to finalize report.
- *Population Reduction* – Early 2022

Farla: It's clear that Emergency Medical Services has been under staffed so it's great to hear there will be more staff coming there.

Christina: What does net increase of 356 mean of tests administered?

Response from Sandy: This is a weekly snapshot of what we do and it is posted on the Sheriff's webpage. We completed 356 COVID tests on inmates on 1 week.

Libby: I was hoping to hear more about the analysis from population reduction of the jail. Who is leading it, what are the scopes of alternatives they are looking at?

Sandy: It's 2 or 3 consultant groups combined, I'm not sure what their names are in front of me, we can get you their names later. Part of the issue has been looking at the size of our jails and the number of inmates incarcerated and the desire has been can we significantly reduce the jail population. What they are looking at is to look at the actual inmates and the charges, looking at the people who have serious mental illness and also looking at some of the programs we have which are run by public defender, probation, etc to see could any of those programs if they are successful – expand. I don't have the whole line of question in front of me but the question is can we significantly reduce the jail population.

Libby: whatever you are able to share, would be helpful, names of consultants, etc.

Sandy: That's actually not our direct work, I just happen to sit on criminal justice cabinet, etc. It would be great to have the population reduced because that would help me with the work around staffing, etc. We will try to get more detail but there has not been anything public yet.

Lynn: I have questions about the youth facility. Have we disaggregated the numbers to know how many are vaccinated who are under 18 and over 18? I'm wondering about parental consent impacts vs. adult choice.

Sandy: I know the first people we vaccinated were those who were of age. I know that parental consent does add an extra layer to the process. I don't have a break out by age. If that is desired, I could ask the program coordinator to provide that.

Lynn: Requested data for over 18 for the data breakout and disaggregated by race. Sandy indicated she can do that and provide to Farla.

Steve Orkand: First question has to do with the number of COVID positive patients that are identified per week. Most of those I suspect you are screening people brought to the jail for the first time. I want to make sure that staff that are working with inmates are COVID free.

Sandy: We always mark on our data dashboard – the number of confirmed cases and the number that are coming from intake. For individuals that come in we have special COVID quarantine housing and they are testing during that period of time. The bulk of the cases are coming during intake and are asymptomatic.

Sandy: There will be a public safety agency led by a Deputy County Executive. That new person will own the types of things like types of tasks like reducing the jail population.

Lori Miller: Medication assisted treatment for youth is that available at YDF? Staff were told it's being considered and I wanted to get an update. Sandy indicated she can provide more information around that.

Public Health Officer Update - Dr. Oliva Kasirye, M.D.

Farla: Another award has been provided the Power of Voice Award which comes from a local communications owner and honors a single powerful voice that has brought inspiration to Sacramento County residents. Dr. Kasirye was recognized as this year's most important and prominent communicator.

Olivia:I am hoping you all do have access to the Dashboard but wanted to spend the time letting you know what we are seeing

500-600 per day is what we are seeing. We did see a pretty significant increase yesterday and we are looking to see what is going on. The dashboard does look like we are at a plateau but it is still tenuous. I have been asked whether we have seen additional cases from students? We have seen a 10 point increase on cases from schools but it is still overwhelmingly the young adults that we are getting. When you look at hospitalizations especially compared to the winter peak we are almost at the winter peak, so Sacramento region has been hit hard with this last wave. Right now all hospitals are quite full. Hospitals are doing everything they can. Hospitals do have difficulty with staffing and making sure they have enough staff and I know in PHAB you have had some interest in talking about the wall time and with the EDs being so full it has gone up. They have had to do some diversion at some hospitals for a brief time but overall they have been able to coordinate very well and keep the impacts low.

Hospitals were having people walk-in to the Emergency Department asking for a COVID test.

80-90% of our cases are among those that are not vaccinated so still pushing out the message to have folks get vaccinated and this is our best opportunity to beat this virus. Lastly with the schools we have a team working very closely with the schools to make sure we are able to coordinate with them and quarantine and when they identify cases it doesn't grow into a large outbreak.

Testing

- There is a shortage of binax kits that is coming up
- The antigen timeline is the one that is impacting not just the schools but the other sectors like

the health sector that has to implement the testing for people that are not vaccinated

By the end of September we expect to pass the peak and holding on waiting for that peak to occur and in the mean time trying to make sure we are able to continue to provide resources.

We are continuing with our efforts with vaccinations especially with zip codes that we have low vaccination rates. We have seen a lot of progress, especially in South Sacramento we have seen our work with community based organizations pay off.

We still have work to do in North Highlands and Del Paso Heights so we are making a big push for the month of September to get similar progress in that region. We have been working with Supervisor Desmond who has been supporting us a lot to be able to come to some of the events in his district. I was asked a question about using billboards. We did use billboards earlier on in our vaccination campaign, we have not been using them that much right now. We have found vaccine influencers and one-on-one engagement to be more effective.

Andrew: Any talk of CDPH opening another surge/field hospital like they did at Arco Arena last year?

Dr. K: No because last time when they did that they felt it was underutilized and everyone is struggling with staffing.

Melinda: Do we have a high rate of children who are being hospitalized?

Dr. K: We have had some children in hospitals and deaths. But fortunately we have not seen a huge surge in hospitalizations in children that we have heard about in other places like the Midwest.

Steve: Who will monitor nursing home compliance with vaccination mandates?

Dr. K: Nursing homes are overseen by the State Department of Social Services. In Public Health if there is an outbreak we can request the records. We did a survey early on in the year. We have found residents have very high vaccination rates, but with the employees it's about 60%. We will have to see what we see with the vaccine mandate, they are also struggling with maintaining enough staffing.

Discussion of PHAB's Top 5 Priorities for Sacramento County's 2022-2023 Budget

Here we have an opportunity to influence the Board priorities. Initially the deadline for submission was September 9th but I think it has been extended for us. People can submit their votes by email and I will compile that.

Opening up to anyone wanting to suggest other areas:

Larrisa: expanding mental health services within correctional health, additional resources for alternatives to incarceration, need to expand health care access to vulnerable populations--thinking not just mental health, but screening for HIV/HCV, syphilis, medication assisted treatment and sexual health as well as case management services and resources/housing for the homeless, and management of outbreaks in vulnerable settings like correctional health on the planning side..

Sonal:

1. Behavioral Health Continuum of Care.
2. Sac County Public Health Infrastructure/Staffing
3. Climate change and impact upon vulnerable populations, in particular wildfires
4. Homelessness supports and services

5. COVID-19 (and general emergency respond preparedness)

Lynn: Climate and Health Equity

Libby: I was hoping we could hear from Dr. K and Dr. Damiano about their priorities and what is most underfunded

- Dr. Damiano: One of them is adult correctional health; the other is space even if we can get the jail population down because it's not a place that's conducive to healthcare
 - o For underfunded programs is Emergency Medical Services and WIC Programs
 - o Concur with Dr. Kasirye regarding population that is homeless that needs housing, health care and behavioral health care!
- Dr. Kasirye: COVID Response; Health Equity – one that has really been highlighted during COVID response is how disproportionately our communities have been hit by this. When you look at vulnerable communities the impact was much greater and recovery will be a lot harder. Public Health can help communities become more resilient. I also want to add the homeless into that as well, the number has increased and being able to put focus on getting these residents out of the conditions that they are in, into stable housing and provide the health support they need so they can be successful.
 - o The other area is community nursing being able to have nurses that could provide more support because often times we get calls from hospitals on certain cases.
 - o STDs. This has followed off of a lot of radars. We still have a huge STD problem. We have been able to expand our STD clinic to those that fall through the cracks especially the youth and other communities that feel marginalized. We want to provide services where these community members feel comfortable.
 - o CalAIM implementation: Us helping to ensure that provides that are selected and who the health systems are going with are covering the populations that need to be covered. How we might help to bring folks together to make sure that those networks of care are adequate for the underserved.
- Libby was wondering what community resilience would look like? Dr. K responded: the Board did approve 10 million total over a 5 year period to be given to 7 communities for Black Child Legacy Campaign. The community was able to take the lead around this campaign. One of the things that allowed us to be successful in the vaccine campaign was working with community based agencies. So building on to that, our hope is that we will be able to continue to work with community around developing strategies and as we go along we can look at strategies for recovery and resilience.

Steve: I sit on the Medical Dental Advisory Committee and access to dental care has always been tough. I think dental is something that we should keep an eye on. We should bring in Deborah Payne and Jonathan Porteus to update us sometime during the year.

Jofil: I would like to invite PHAB and Dr. Damiano and Dr. Kasirye to see if we can have Ann Edwards join one of our future meetings to engage with the new CEO. Hopefully inviting Cindy Cavanaugh to a PHAB Meeting. She had a pretty well rounded homeless update in April 2021. San Diego County declared Public Health misinformation as a Public Health Crisis and I really do believe health misinformation could potentially downstream impact. All about individual liberties and freedom but there is a fine line where it has negative impacts.

Farla: Do you see what PHABs role would be in that?

Jofil: I don't have a next step necessarily. Dr. Kasirye in my day job at Sac RT she provided an hour or two of her time to us and that type of thing helps. Continuing that positive messaging.

Dr. Kasirye: Because of the work of PHAB we do have the community forums to once a month at least the feedback we are getting is that information has been helpful. If you feel strongly about misinformation you can draft a letter you are an Advisory Board to the Board of Supervisors.

Farla: Staci will come November, December to present an update on STDs. This has been an issue for a long, long time and not enough funding to address it.

Farla can make a list and send it out to the members and people can rank the 5.

Farla: There was an increase in budget for the Sheriff's Department but not a major increase for anyone else, is that correct Dr. K?

Dr. K said she had not reviewed Sheriff's budget but said we have received a lot of funding from the State and Federal Government specifically for COVID relief. We did request a small amount of funds for California Children Services for the staffing where we had that shortfall.

Farla: Public Health has been underfunded for decades so even when funds from State or Federal government are spent and when COVID ends we still will face a huge deficit in the funds needed to function as a Public Health Department within Sacramento County to the level that is needed.

Dr. K: We did submit with ARPA a request. We are anticipating more federal money coming but also the way that the County budget is setup is that it is dependent on us putting in budget requests and for this year we did not put in a lot of requests. But for long-term that is something we are reviewing and will continue to look at.

PHAB Working Committee Update – Abbott/Summers

We have been talking to different people who have different insights on different aspects of correctional health. We had a great conversation with prison law office recently. A major development is the establishment of the Public Safety Agency which should have implications for this work. Top priorities would be correctional health and compliance with Mays consent decree. This deputy CEO would be hired by October and we are thinking about what we can pull together in the next 4-6 week so we can provide recommendations for this new office. We have been establishing membership and reaching out to community members.

There is still 1 open position for a PHAB member on that.

Public Comment

Farla: Do we have any public comments?

Public: No

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23PM

Submitted by Liz Gomez, scribe