



LOS ANGELES COUNTY
COMMISSION ON HIV



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HIVCOMM@LACHIV.ORG • <http://hiv.lacounty.gov> ORG • VIRTUAL WEBEX MEETING

Presence at virtual meetings is recorded based on the attendance roll call. Only members of the Commission on HIV are accorded voting privileges and must verbally acknowledge their attendance in order to vote.

Approved meeting minutes are available on the Commission’s website; meeting recordings are available upon request.

PLANNING, PRIORITIES & ALLOCATIONS (PP&A) COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 16, 2021

PP&A MEMBERS PRESENT	PP&A MEMBERS PRESENT (cont.)	PUBLIC	COMM STAFF/CONSULTANTS
Raquel Cataldo, <i>Co-Chair</i>	LaShonda Spencer, MD	Alasdair Burton	Cheryl Barrit, MPIA
Everardo Alvizo	Maribel Ulloa	Katja Nelson, MPP	Carolyn Echols-Watson, MPA
Kevin Donnelly		LCDR Jose Antonio Ortiz, MPH	Catherine Lapointe
Felipe Gonzalez	PP&A MEMBERS ABSENT		Jane Nachazel
Joseph Green	Frankie Darling Palacios, <i>Co-Chair</i>		
Michael Green, PhD, MHSA			DHSP/DPH STAFF
Damontae Hack (<i>Alt.</i>)	Al Ballesteros, MBA		Jane Bowers, MPH
Karl Halfman, MS	Alexander Luckie Fuller		Pamela Ogata, MPH
William King, MD, JD	Diamante Johnson		Victor Scott
Miguel Martinez, MPH, MSW	Kayla Walker-Heltzel		Julie Tolentino, MPH
Anthony Mills, MD	Guadalupe Velasquez		Paulina Zamudio
Derek Murray			

*Some participants may not have been captured electronically. Attendance can be corrected by emailing the Commission.

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- 2) **Agenda:** Planning, Priorities & Allocations Committee Meeting Agenda, 2/16/2021
- 3) **Minutes:** Planning, Priorities & Allocations (PP&A) Committee Meeting Minutes, 12/15/2020
- 4) **Minutes:** Planning, Priorities & Allocations (PP&A) Committee Meeting Minutes, 1/19/2021
- 5) **Table:** 2021 WorkPlan – Planning, Priorities and Allocations Committee, *Draft 2/16/2021*
- 6) **Executive Summary:** Ending the HIV Epidemic in Los Angeles County, Executive Summary, 12/1/2020
- 7) **Guidance:** COVID-19: Considerations for People with HIV, *Version 12/22/2020*

CALL TO ORDER - INTRODUCTIONS - CONFLICT OF INTEREST: Ms. Cataldo called the meeting to order at 1:02 pm. Attendees introduced themselves and identified conflicts of interest.

I. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION 1: Approve the Agenda Order, as presented (***Passed by Consensus***).

2. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

MOTION 2: Approve the 12/15/2020 and 1/19/2021 Planning, Priorities and Allocations (PP&A) Committee Meeting Minutes, as presented (*Passed by Consensus*).

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

3. **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC TO ADDRESS COMMISSION ON ITEMS OF INTEREST WITHIN COMMISSION JURISDICTION:** There were no comments.

III. COMMITTEE NEW BUSINESS

4. **OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMISSIONERS TO RECOMMEND ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS, OR ITEMS REQUIRING IMMEDIATE ACTION DUE TO AN EMERGENCY, OR IF NEED FOR ACTION AROSE AFTER POSTING AGENDA**

- Dr. King noted eligibility to receive COVID-19 vaccine was shifting from risk-based to age- and occupation-based criteria. He asked about vaccine eligibility and equity for PLWH.
- Ms. Barrit replied that at the 2/11/2021 Commission Meeting the Co-Chairs asked her to draft a letter to the Board of Supervisors (Board) and Department of Public Health (DPH) to elevate the priority of vaccinating PLWH. She was in the process of drafting the letter for review at the 2/25/2021 Executive Committee Meeting.
- ➡ Add state as addressee. Refer any additional feedback on the letter to Ms. Barrit.

IV. REPORTS

5. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/STAFF REPORT**

- Ms. Barrit reminded all Commissioners that the HealthHIV survey to assess Commission effectiveness has been distributed. It is very important to garner a 100% response rate to accurately evaluate how well the Commission is doing in meeting its charge as the Los Angeles County (LAC) Planning Council (PC).
- Ms. Barrit congratulated Raquel Cataldo and Frankie Darling-Palacios on being elected Co-Chairs. She thanked them for stepping up. She thanked Al Ballesteros for serving multiple times as Co-Chair and offering his mentorship.
- February 2021 is Ms. Nachazel-Ruck's last cycle of covering meetings. Ms. Barrit thanked her for her service.

a. New Committee Members

- Ms. Barrit welcomed Unaffiliated Consumers (UCs) Damontae Hack, on an Alternate seat, and Guadalupe Velasquez.
- The Commission was working to orient all the new members to help them understand the process. She encouraged current PP&A members to help welcome them. UCs are being prioritized for placement in PP&A to ensure their voice is represented in the Priority Setting and Resource Allocations (PSRA) process.

b. Committee Updates

- Ms. Barrit noted the 2021 Paradigms and Operating Values were approved at the 2/11/2021 Commission Meeting. She congratulated PP&A for accomplishing that early in the year.
- The Commission also approved the Universal Standards of Care (SOC) presented by the Standards and Best Practices (SBP) Committee. It has been updated to address telehealth services and is posted on the Commission website.
- SBP identified the following SOCs to address in 2021: Home-Based Case Management, Benefits Specialty Services (BSS), and Substance Abuse Treatment – Residential. They will continue to work with Dr. Green and Ms. Ogata regarding any updates to the DHSP solicitation schedule that may indicate the need to review any other SOCs. Likewise, SBP will work with PP&A on any PSRA decisions that may impact the need to review other SOCs.

6. **CO-CHAIR REPORT**

a. Draft 2021 Committee Work Plan

- Ms. Echols-Watson noted the "Committee Responsibilities" section is drawn from the PP&A charge in the Bylaws.
- Ms. Cataldo reviewed the draft Work Plan.
- Regarding DHSP staff availability to assist in the PSRA process, Dr. Green reported no staff currently redeployed as Disaster Service Workers (DSWs) were being allowed to return to their usual duties as yet. He expected that, at minimum, major redeployment would continue through March 2021 since many staff are helping with the COVID-19 vaccination Point of Distribution (POD) sites which are already scheduled through March and may continue after that.
- DHSP will work to continue to prioritize the Utilization Report before the next term since that data is the most useful.
- The Work Plan indicates Expenditure Reports are monthly, but that is inaccurate. The last was around December 2020. The first Report on a grant term is usually not available for four or five months. That provides time to close the grant and ensure expenditures are shifted among grants to maximize each one. The next Report will most likely be in April.

- Mr. Donnelly asked about the status of the Comprehensive HIV Plan (CHP). Ms. Barrit elaborated that a great deal of work went into development of the CHP, but it was then superseded with the launch of the Los Angeles County HIV/AIDS Strategy (LACHAS). That, in turn, has been superseded by the Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Plan.
- The one caveat is that the CHP has also been referred to as the “Integrated Plan” by the federal government. There has, as yet, been no guidance from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on whether they will request another “Integrated Plan.” Until then, however, the goals and activities are similar so she recommended focusing on the current EHE Plan.
- Dr. Green commented that the CHP is no longer referenced by the federal government, but the EHE includes prevention in the pillars so it serves much the same purpose. Nevertheless, Mr. Halfman said that as a Part B provider grantee, the Office of AIDS (OA) has also asked HRSA about the “Integrated Plan” periodically and has been asked to wait for guidance. At the Ryan White Conference in August 2020, he asked Laura Cheever, MD, ScM, Associate Administrator, HIV/AIDS Bureau (HAB) if they planned to roll the “Integrated Plan” into EHE. At that time, she said no.
- ➡ Add Aging and Black African American Community (BAAC) Task Force Recommendations as standing agenda items.
- ➡ New member orientation includes PSRA review and it will also be reviewed at the start of the annual process.
- ➡ Item 6: Data Review – In consideration of the large number of DHSP redeployed as COVID-19 DSWs, ensure that data requests are coordinated with DHSP and submitted as early as possible.
- ➡ Item 12: Prevention Planning – Also incorporate into all items to underline the work towards full service integration.
- ➡ Staff will review the Work Plan to ensure descriptions are clarified per the day’s discussion.

7. DIVISION OF HIV AND STD PROGRAMS (DHSP) REPORT

- Ms. Nelson reported the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) issued new guidance on COVID-19 vaccination schedule Phase 1B on at risk people. HIV is not on the list, but there is a bullet on life-threatening illnesses that might apply.
- Dr. Green said, as far as he knew, it would be up to providers to look at other people if they have enough vaccine after vaccinating scheduled 1A and 1B. LAC has demonstrated it can vaccinate more people if it receives more vaccine.
- a. **Fiscal Update**
 - Dr. Green reported there will be no new information until April 2021. DHSP anticipates expending all Ryan White Part A, Part B, Minority AIDS Initiative (MAI) carryover, and a good portion of this year’s MAI.
 - This is a very good result for so challenging year, especially compared to other jurisdictions.
- b. **Contracts and Procurement Update**
 - Dr. Green said DHSP was in the process of extending many contracts, primarily because it lacks the staff to put together solicitation documents. Neither DHSP nor DPH Contracts and Grants has staff available due to DSW assignments.
 - DHSP was asked at the 2/11/2021 Commission meeting why it might not bring on staff to help. DHSP has been told, however, that the LAC Chief Executive Office and Human Resources will only allow DHSP to hire epidemiologists and related classifications even though DHSP has vacancies and funding. DHSP cannot hire temporary workers either.
 - He acknowledged that the Commission has asked if there was a way to help. That has been discussed in the office, but there was really nothing. He felt LAC should hire staff for COVID-19 so DHSP staff could return to their usual work.
 - Ms. Cataldo was concerned that HIV funding was being used for COVID-19. Dr. Green said, though his staff was redeployed to COVID-19, they were being paid for out of COVID-19 funds rather than HIV funds. Ryan White Program (RWP) funding only allows for 10% administrative costs and services are expending their funding. Program managers are unavailable to assess work so DHSP is relying on monthly progress reports provided by agencies with their invoices.
- c. **Emergency Financial Assistance (EFA) Update:** There was no more information past the 2/11/2021 Commission report.

8. PREVENTION PLANNING WORK GROUP UPDATE

- Mr. Martinez reported the next meeting will be 3/22/2021 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. This is intentionally scheduled to facilitate voices that might not otherwise be able to attend. The agenda is being carefully drafted to ensure best use of time.
- Ms. Barrit has emailed a request to DHSP to provide: a general overview of DHSP-funded programs; prevention indicators such as on PrEP for priority populations; testing data by priority populations; and, a summary local resource inventory.
- Dr. Green said DHSP can provide the prevention portfolio. DHSP has no reliable HIV Testing System (HTS) data to present at this time. The HTS was so unreliable that it could not be repaired and was being replaced. Staff are trying to clean data so that data entered into the new system will be as accurate as possible. The new HTS was not expected to be available until August 2021. The DHSP PrEP database only shows DHSP-funded services. He was unaware of a state database, but can ask. Likewise, DHSP was only aware of resources it funds. One new CDC assignee was attempting to create a resource list.
- He noted how many topics could reasonably be explored would depend in large part on how experienced attendees are. Ms. Barrit noted the distribution list is some 15,000 so the range of experience will be broad. Dr. Green suggested, in that case, first laying the foundation of HIV prevention in LAC. He found case studies helpful, but Mr. Martinez preferred data.

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- Ms. Barrit asked about PrEP update data on the CDC's EHE dashboard. Dr. Green cannot speak to the reliability of that data because he was unaware of the source, e.g., the state or pharmaceutical data.
- Dr. Green noted there were resource maps developed in 2017 as part of the preparation for LACHAS development. He noted that Substance Abuse Prevention and Control (SAPC) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) also have much larger budgets than DHSP and likely have considerable data.
- Dr. Spencer said at OASIS they have been comparing PrEP clients and those newly diagnosed with HIV to identify criteria.
- Staff will include with the meeting notification the Executive Summary of the local EHE Plan and the CDC's recent letter with a compendium of interventions and strategies for prevention initiative.
- ➡ Dr. Spencer will share the OASIS data.
- ➡ Agreed that the first meeting should be foundational including the DHSP prevention portfolio, EHE, PrEP, and next steps.

V. NEXT STEPS

9. **TASK/ASSIGNMENTS RECAP:** There were no additional items.
10. **AGENDA DEVELOPMENT FOR NEXT MEETING:** There were no additional items.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

11. **OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC AND COMMITTEE TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS:** There were no announcements.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

12. **ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm.