

# Sacramento County Public Health Advisory Board

## Meeting Minutes

February 3, 2021 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

## Meeting Location

Zoom Meeting (Open to the Public)

**Moderator:** Dr. Farla Kaufman

**Scribe:** Theresa Vinson

**Board Attendees:** Jennifer Anderson, Jofil Borja, Sandy Damiano (ex-officio), Steve Heath, Olivia Kasirye (ex-officio) Farla Kaufman, Barbara Law, Sonal Patel, Emanuel Petrisor, Christina Slee, Phil Summers, Annie Tat

**Guests:** Rachel Alvarez, Ann Ameril, Jael Barnes, Liz Blum, Gail Brosnan, Christine Bourne, Courtney Hanson, Judy Heiman, Jim Hunt, Niki Jones, Carol Maytum, Sandy Moss, Steve Orkand, Nancy Pollock, Ryan Quist, Tifanei Ressler-Moyer, Roland Villareal, and individuals identified by first name only: Matthew, Robyn.

## Board Members Excused:

**Guest Speakers:** Michael Meyer, Chief  
Sacramento County Environmental Compliance Division

Kelley McCoy, Chief  
Sacramento County Environmental Health Division

Alex Schmalz, MD, MPH, BA  
California ACEP Health Policy Fellow 2021

**Meeting Opened:** 12:00 PM

**Welcome and Introductions:** Dr. Kaufman welcomed all Board members and guests. There were introductions.

**Review of Minutes:** *January 2020 Minutes* – motion to approve C. Slee, seconded, carried.

Voting Record as follows

**Ayes:** Borja, Summers, Slee, Anderson, Kaufman, Tat, Patel, Petrisor, Heath, Law

*November 2020 REVISED Minutes* – Motion to approve S. Patel, seconded, carried.

Voting Record as follows:

**Ayes:** Borja, Summers, Slee, Kaufman, Tat, Patel, Petrisor, Heath, Law

**Abstention:** Anderson

**Vacancies & Appointments:** Interviews for new members recently completed, Board appointments pending, expect to receive names of new members soon.

**Appointment HIV Health Services Planning Council – Candidate:** Janet Parker  
Motion to approve S. Patel, seconded, carried

Voting Record as follows

**Ayes:** Borja, Summers, Slee, Anderson, Kaufman, Tat, Patel, Petrisor, Heath, Law

Additional detail re vote can be requested from PHAB staff.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE**

### **Covid-19 Countywide**

Cases: 87,000

Deaths 1,300 (approximately)\*

Hospitalizations reduced some

Case range: reducing, 23 per 100k  
at 25 per 100k schools will be allowed to reopen with new state guidelines.  
Testing will be required weekly or bi-weekly.

\*Deaths are backlogged and will remain high for a while

### **Vaccinations Countywide**

Sac County has moved to Phase 1B and 65+ first responders

Educators anticipated in the next couple weeks

Sac County receives weekly allocations which include long-term care facilities, hospitals: Total 149,514 doses

Public Health approximately 23,000 doses

Expected next week approximately 16,000 doses (Cal Expo, community partners, Cal North State, Sacramento State, several pharmacies included in Sacramento County)

Only a few labs can currently test for variants at this time; County is not doing that right now.

Demographics of people who have received the vaccine is uneven due to prioritization. Small clinics are being set up to reach disadvantaged communities and then further pop-up groups will be coming.

Need currently is for more supply of vaccine.

### **PRIMARY HEALTH AND CORRECTIONAL HEALTH**

#### **Emergency Medical Advisory Group (EMAG)**

Scheduled for a BOS presentation on 2/9/21 at 10:15 am. EMAG wrote an advocacy paper entitled, *Emergency Medical Services in Sacramento County: Solving budget and staffing shortfalls to protect public health and safety.*

It should be posted on the BOS webpage 2/5/21.

#### **COVID-19 Status in the Jail Facilities**

As of **01/27/21**:

Total Inmate Population (Main Jail & Rio Cosumnes Correctional Center): 3,211

Total number of COVID-19 tests since March: 10,389 (*Net increase = 454*)

Total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases: 1,218 (*Net increase = 225*)

Total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases during the intake observation/quarantine period: 304 (*Net increase = 26*)

Total number of COVID-19 positive inmates currently in custody: Main Jail - 34 / RCCC – 236

Total number of COVID-19 related deaths: 0

Total number of COVID-19 hospitalizations: 0

Majority of cases are asymptomatic.

SSO Link: <https://www.sacsheriff.com/pages/covid19.php>

**Background** – An outbreak was confirmed on 12/30/20 at the RCCC and 1/7/21 at the Main Jail. Contact tracing involves large scale testing at both facilities. Once introduced to the jail, COVID spreads rapidly. This is very common in correctional facilities. Staff are actively working on potential sources of internal transmission and ways to mitigate it.

**Protocol** – Staff protocols are based on local and federal guidance and are regularly revised as processes are changed or refined. There are four COVID-19 housing units in each jail including Intake Quarantine (new arrivals), Close Contact Quarantine (exposed but no symptoms), Suspect Isolation (symptoms but pending testing) and Confirmed Cases. Any inmate exhibiting symptoms consistent with the CDC COVID-19 symptom list are tested. Additionally all patients exposed to the symptomatic individual are also tested.

**Clinical Status** – The majority of inmates are asymptomatic. Some have mild symptoms. None are hospitalized.

**Vaccinations** – Most staff have received their COVID-19 vaccinations. Inmates who are medically vulnerable and will be incarcerated for both doses are prioritized for vaccines. This will occur within age groups (older first) and is dependent on vaccine allocation for the week. We are working closely with Public Health on vaccination prioritization.

Screening for people coming into the jail. Four different types of housing is used for COVID-19 screening. Intake quarantine for all new arrivals are tested. Close contact quarantine for people who have been exposed to someone with confirmed COVID-19, but do not have symptoms. Suspect isolation housing for people manifesting symptoms. They are moved and tested. COVID-19 confirmed cases are in housing pods.

**Change in Status:**

Tobacco Coalition Control (TCC)

**Vote** to remove TCC from a standing committee of PHAB

Motion made to approve E. Petrisor, seconded, carried

Voting Record as follows:

**Ayes:** Borja, Summers, Slee, Anderson, Kaufman, Tat, Patel, Petrisor, Heath, La

## PRESENTATION 1

Alex Schmalz, MD, MPH, BA  
California ACEP Health Policy Fellow 2021

### **Holds in Hallways**

#### Overview

To highlight the experiences of the Sacramento County Emergency Room Doctors

Brief history of Psychiatric Public Policy

Discuss EMLATA and Mental Health

Decreased Mental Health Funding

Emergency Departments and Mental Health

Among other things this presentation highlights the difficulty in transferring patients experiencing a mental health crisis to a place where they can get the help they need when they arrive in the emergency room. However, in a medical crisis involving things such as strokes and heart attacks and other medical emergencies, patients can always be transferred from the Emergency Room (ER) to the appropriate department where they can get the help they need in a somewhat timely fashion.

In 1986 the Emergency Medicine and Treatment and Labor Act and Mental Health (EMLATA) was passed. It was designed to prevent what is called “patient dumping” when hospitals refused patients because of poor insurance, under insurance or none at all. The bill required all patients in a medical emergency be seen by a doctor. The bill was amended in 1989 requiring specialists to stabilize patients in a medical or mental health emergency, and to accept patients if they had the available beds. The closest hospital with an open bed would have to take care of them, and this was designed to be enforced with large fines, if necessary.

EMTALA violations are under reported. The recession in 2000 led to further defunding of mental health, large systems like Sutter, Kaiser, and Mercy were left with physicians trying to address or treat patients in a mental health crisis in the ER. These beds were and are still occupied for very long periods of time. Some systems tried to reserve and designate beds for patients in a mental health crisis, but this exacerbated the shortage of beds already in existence. To reduce pressure on the ERs in Sacramento, Sutter now has a facility, Mercy is

working on trying to get one and Davis is working on one, but it has not made a huge difference. We still see mental health patients waiting for weeks and sometimes months for the appropriate care.

Holds in Hallways means that all beds are full with patients experiencing acute medical emergencies and unfortunately, we end up having psychiatric holds placed in hallways with beds lining the hallways, and they are the only beds available in the ER. ER doctors do not have the skillset to meaningfully treat psychiatric disease, we can stabilize patients by giving them sedatives, but we cannot provide long term therapy for these patients.

## **PRESENTATION 2**

Michael Meyer, Chief  
Sacramento County Environmental Compliance Division

Kelley McCoy, Chief  
Sacramento County Environmental Health Division

### **Proposed Fee Schedule**

Due to the pandemic the Fee Schedule was delayed and there has been changes since March of 2020 when last presented to PHAB. Due to food industry impacts of Covid-19, current fees will stay the same, there were increases proposed last year. There will be no increase in any food facilities (retail, restaurant, food prep, etc.). The associated storm water fee also remains the same as they relate to food service industries.

Body Art facilities (tattoos and perm makeup), have been closed for 80% of 2020, so those fee will also not be increased due to impact from Covid-19.

Storm water fees associated with other businesses (auto body, auto repair, retail gas outlets like AM/PM will remain the same). This has not changed from March 2020, but because there is a fee increase we are highlighting this. Pool and spa fees are currently \$490 for all public pools (apartments HOAs, gyms, hotels), proposed from \$490 to \$546 and slowing increase over the next two years (after July 2021) when the increases will take effect. Temporary inactive fees (gyms not currently using pools or spas), will remain the same.

For more detailed information, please visit the EMD website at  
<https://emd.saccounty.net/Pages/2020-2021ProposedFeeSchedule.aspx>

**Vote in Support of \*EMD Proposed Fee Schedule**

Motion to support F. Kaufman, seconded, not carried/motion failed

Voting Record as follows

**Ayes:** Kaufman, Patel, Slee.

**Abstentions:** Law, Summers, Borja, Tat.

**No votes recorded in chat** by: Heath, Petrisor and/or not present - left the meeting early.

\*Fee schedule set to be presented to the Board of Supervisors on March 26, 2021

Farla Kaufman statement via chat: *To everyone wanting to talk about the jail conditions please stay on the call at the end of the meeting.*

Farla Kaufman announced via chat: *There will be 10 minutes for further public comments at 1:20. A special meeting can be called within the next couple of weeks to further this discussion with PHAB, Dr. Damiano and interested members of the public.*

**Vote to hold Special Meeting**

Motion to support C. Slee, seconded, and carried.

Voting Record as follows

**Ayes:** Kaufman, Patel, Slee, Tat, Law, Borja, Summers

**No votes recorded in chat** by: Heath, Petrisor and/or not present - left the meeting early.

Public Comment (Farla Kaufman announced additional time for public comment – comments not received for minutes)  
None.

Adjournment