

Public Health Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

October 5th, 2022 12-1:30PM

Meeting Location

Zoom Meeting (Open to the Public)

Moderator: Farla Kaufman

Scribes: Liz Gomez

Meeting Opened: 12:00 PM

Board Members:

Category	Name	Attendance
Community Member	Stephen Heath	YES
Community Member	Barbara Law	YES
Community Member	Jofil Borja	YES
Community Member	Elisabeth Abbott	YES
Community Member	Phillip Summers	YES
Public Health Professional	Farla Kaufman	YES
Public Health/Health	Ashley Sterlin	YES
Public Health/Health	Sonal Patel	YES
Community Member	Chase Smith	YES
Public Health/Health	Bekalu Amare	Excused
Public Health/Health	Sara Bowsky	YES
Public Health Professional	Vacant	NA
Public Health/Health	Vacant	NA
Community	Vacant	NA
Community	George Meyer	YES
County Staff	Dr. Olivia Kasirye (Ex-officio)	YES
County Staff	Sandy Damiano (Ex-officio)	YES

Other County Leadership: Lori Miller, Emily Halcon

Review of Minutes: August minutes approved. Barbie Law abstained.

YouTube link for the minutes: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vjp5F-n3b5Q>

Primary Health Division Updates – Dr. Damiano

We have had staffing challenges is the one thing I wanted to highlight. Hopefully some of the actions we took to reduce vacancies will prove successful.

Board hearing on the Mays Consent just recently happened. The Board of Supervisors are looking at a board hearing for staff recommendations in December for (a) facilities and (b) for reducing the jail population.

Deputy Director for Primary Health is moving but slower than anticipated. We should have an announcement for Director of Health Services shortly.

Please see attached report from Primary Health:

<https://dhs.saccounty.gov/PUB/Documents/Public-Health-Advisory-Board/PHAB-Meeting-Documents/2022/Presentations/PHAB%20Adult%20Correctional%20Health%20Report%2010-3-22.pdf>

Public Health Advisory Board Updates – Farla Updates

Introduction of George Meyer our newest member. Welcome!

Motion to accept minutes – Stephen Heath; Seconded by Jofil Borja. Minutes have been approved.

Public Health Division Updates – Dr. Kasirye

COVID-19

- The numbers do continue to go down new case rate is 7.2 per 100,000.
- The State did rescind or modify a number of state health officer orders which took away surveillance testing for some work sites and modified some masking requirements.
- Sacramento is in a low transmission level so masking is voluntary. However, CDPH still requires universal masking in healthcare settings.

Monkeypox

- The numbers for Monkeypox has slowed down as well. We have also seen a reduction in the demand for vaccination for Monkeypox.

Opioids

- Next week on Tuesday we have an opioid summit. We have seen an increase in deaths even during the height of the COVID pandemic. Recently CDPH did sent out a warning about a new type of fentanyl pill that has very attractive colors that are attractive to young people.

Substance Use Prevention and Treatment Update – Lori Miller

Fentanyl campaign which is a partnership between the District Attorney's Office and Department of Health Services. Organization called Arrive Alive is doing education at local schools.

We are starting with the parents and then will continue with the students at assemblies.

Overdose mapping project, a presentation was provided to you, Public Health and Substance Use prevention and treatment in the month of September we had 165 suspected overdoses and 79 had naloxone administered. Already we are getting some pretty good data from that. Would like more information on where did those happen so we can tailor our services.

We are up to 62 fentanyl deaths and 88 meth involved deaths.

We have our continued county wide naloxone distribution project in many County lobbies and getting support to other providers by connecting them on how to order naloxone directly.

We are looking for a board member for our Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board and we have a board meeting coming up on October 12th.

Question: On supervised injection facilities and what our committee has taken a stance on?

Response: Currently no we don't have a recent stand on it.

Comment: Really disappointed to see Governor Newsom veto the establishment of SIS in California.

Question: Would like to understand how this data is going to be used and how we can engage community in ensuring it won't be used for law enforcement targeting exercises?

Response: Moving forward we want to have those conversations so I will go ahead and get those scheduled. If there are particular members that want a seat at the table, please send me an email.

Comment: *Would like to have folks with lived experience in the community at that table.*

Additional Resources:

- Sac Opioid Summit: <https://dhs.saccounty.gov/PUB/Documents/Public-Health-Advisory-Board/PHAB-Meeting-Documents/2022/Presentations/October%202022/sacopioidsummit.E.fin.pdf>
- Alcohol and Drug Services Advisory Board Member Recruitment: <https://dhs.saccounty.gov/PUB/Documents/Public-Health-Advisory-Board/PHAB-Meeting-Documents/2022/Presentations/October%202022/SCADAB%20Recruitment%20Flyer.pdf>

Homelessness – Emily Halcon & Erin Johansen

Presentation, Office of Homeless Initiatives:

<https://dhs.saccounty.gov/PUB/Documents/Public-Health-Advisory-Board/PHAB-Meeting-Documents/2022/Presentations/October%202022/PHAP%20Presentation%2010.05.2022.pdf>

Presentation, Hope Cooperative: https://dhs.saccounty.gov/PUB/Documents/Public-Health-Advisory-Board/PHAB-Meeting-Documents/2022/Presentations/October%202022/SSF%20Livability%20Conference_October%202022.pdf

Question: What is the occupancy percentage?

Response: Permanent housing – very infrequent that we don't have permanent housing occupied unless we are having trouble with finding a landlord. Shelter space is also almost fully occupied.

Question: Safe Stay Communities seems low barrier and hope it expands. For the encampment outreach services, regarding the recent ordinances... for water delivery and sanitation so much of the concern expressed in the community is contamination of water ways, is there conversation about other ways to have facilities to use to address board concerns. Is there also conversation about proactive trash removal?

Response: We have a contract with an organization called forensiclean and they do both proactive and reactive. They also have a regular route that they go through. They do employ a number of folks with lived experience. In addition, there was some money to pilot in the Parkway to incentivize folks experiencing homelessness to do their own debris removal. Those are some ways we are trying to address removal of trash. We do have sanitation stations that

are deployed in the community and launched during COVID-19. Trying to prioritize those camps where access is most limited.

Question: Can you please share some information on the Landlord Engagement Program.

Response: This will be emailed out to the group.

Website page for this program: <https://devschs.saccounty.gov/Pages/LEAP.aspx>

Question: I heard some sanitation stations are being picked up by the County?

Response: Those stations were removed or incorporated by the County response. There may be some nonprofits that deploy their own. But I believe the ones you are referring to were a part of COVID response.

Question: Clarifying question around the causes of homelessness.

Response: Having money to afford housing and access to housing are the main drivers of homelessness. More information here:

Sacramento Steps Forward 2022 Point in Time Count: <https://sacramentostepsforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PIT-Report-2022.pdf>

Question: What are the threats and opportunities on addressing shortage of permanent supportive housing?

Response: Very expensive and slow to build PSH because it requires almost 8 different funding streams. We get a lot of resistance when we are trying to build permanent supportive housing when communities don't want to support a project. Sacramento's vacancy rate is also very low so we need more housing.

Question: The primary strategy of building more affordable housing is with private developers and I am wondering if the County is exploring building more publicly owned housing?

Response: We used to have redevelopment with SHRA that was set aside specifically for this. Redevelopment went away and we lost that mechanism. We tend not to be the most efficient or cost-effective. The federal government is also out of capital funding of development projects through HUD and they don't have as much anymore. Where the County comes in strongly is funding of the services in PSH. Having the unit is one essential thing but those people coming from homelessness who have greater challenges also desperately need those services and right now the only game in service provision is behavioral health. We don't have any real dedicated funding stream to provide those services. Hoping CalAIM can potentially do that work. If we can make that happen that will open up the door to more PSH projects that are funded. We probably won't see government own the properties anytime soon, the answer is to make it faster and cheaper so more projects can be built.

Question: There is a recent county report saying 30% of people booked in the jail need re-entry work when they are being released from jail as it relates to their housing status?

Response: Our community is moving towards coordinated access and folks will be able to call a single line and get access to shelters. There will at least be one single front door. There is a brand new County dedicated full service partnership and housing resources are a part of that. That is a new program and if you are referred to that program while in custody they will meet with you upon release. So that's a great addition.

Question: A year ago or so there was a public video of a forensiclean staff member pulling a knife on an unhoused person, has that issue been addressed in anyway?

Response: Haven't heard of it but I will look into it.

Notes: Near the Alhambra Broadway underpass.

Question: I was reading an old study from New York where they found that for predominately women, people who became houseless women, if you could catch them in the first within the first 3 weeks. How about the prevention of making sure that person can get back into their home? Who looks at some of these early preventative options, how does that intersection play with what you all are doing?

Response: Erin indicated she could answer that through her presentation.

Hope Cooperative – Erin Johansen

Emily talked about county strategies with encampment teams and the City of Sacramento also has an approach around homeless outreach with the Department of Community Response and they do a similar strategy. What I really want to call out is that we hear a lot about service resistance and what we know and find is that people are frustrated they have suffered so much distrust and they just don't think it's going to happen for them. So, a lot of times is what we say is it's a repeated intensive engagement with folks. The most recent effort in that strategy is the outreach center on Auburn Blvd which is a City owned building in the County. The idea of that project is by referral from DCR and our team doing outreach to find that person who is ready to take their next steps. We bring them in, we have a place for their dog and storage and have a staff person help them figure out what they need. Our team is a CalAIM enhanced care management provider as well.

Question: During this last heat wave, I got feedback from many and there was confusion about what was available and at what time. I think from the community it kind of happens in an unpredictable way and not knowing where they are located. I had trouble navigating it on my own. Was transportation available? Other members of my team spent hours trying to find motel vouchers and it was this circular mess. There were some particularly vulnerable people who could have benefitted from that. Increasing the consistency and accessibility and the geographic locations I really hope those are front of mind as these weather events will be more severe.

Response: Coordinated access will help with this. We hope to have that open and running in the next couple of months and 211 will have the most up to date information.

Question: Are there conversations about changing the weather thresholds? Can we just activate for longer periods of time? That seems that would increase uptake a lot.

Response: That was a huge conversation at the City Council a lot. The centers are pretty hard to ramp up and down, but the Center we have that is permanent is a little easier. I'm not sure we are at a place in the community where we are saying all winter and summer we will have this capacity. There is the OES threshold and we never hit those. Most of the time we open cooling centers, it's folks in leadership knowing that it will be hot and activating the centers. I agree with you having more predictability, and more year-round shelter. The motel vouchers are more complicated than they seem. The mechanics of getting them approved by the motel, through the process is complicated.

Local Homeless Action Plan: <https://sacramentostepsforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/SSF-Sacramento-Local-Homeless-Action-Plan-1.pdf>

BH Services for People Experiencing Homelessness:
<https://dhs.saccounty.gov/BHS/Pages/HEART.aspx>

Sacramento Steps Forward 2022 Point in Time Count: <https://sacramentostepsforward.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/PIT-Report-2022.pdf>

Public Comment

Any public comments?

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30PM.

Submitted by Liz Gomez, scribe