



DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Promoting and protecting health, well-being, self-sufficiency, and safety of all in Marin County.



**MARIN HIV/AIDS CARE COUNCIL
DRAFT MINUTES
January 8, 2020
Marin County Health & Wellness Campus
3240 Kerner Blvd., Room 110
San Rafael, CA 94903
3:00 – 5:00 pm**

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I. Call to Order

CM Wade Flores called meeting to order at 3:08 pm.

II. Roll Call

Council Members Present at Roll Call: Elaine Flores, Wade Flores, Esmeralda Garcia, Bobby Moske, Julie Dowling, Linda Dobra

Council Members Arriving Late: None.

Council Members Absent: Ken Travirca, Alex Nizovskikh, James Frazier

Staff Present: Nga Le, Cicily Emerson, Loretta Rogers

Public Present: Leslie Gallen (Spahr Center), Andy Fyne (Spahr Center), Jodie Campbell (MCC), Lydia Arellano (MCC), Axel Flores.

III. Review and approval of Agenda – VOTE

CM Wade Flores requested that members review the draft agenda. No amendments were requested.

CM Linda Dobra moved to approve the draft agenda as submitted. The motion was seconded by CM Esmeralda Garcia. The motion was approved unanimously by the Council.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes – VOTE

a. November 13, 2019 meeting minutes – CM Linda Dobra moved to approve the November 13, 2019, minutes without amendment. CM Julie Dowling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. General Announcements: None.

VI. Public Comment: None

VII. Co-Chair Report:

- a. CM Wade Flores welcomed all the members back after the holidays.

VIII. Prevention Program Report: None.

IX. Division of Public Health Report:

- a. Cicily Emerson reported that an RFP (request for proposal) has been sent out to various partners to provide HCV services. The grant will fund up to a total of \$90,000 to one or more agencies. A selection panel will be needed.
- b. Cicily Emerson also reported that the new Director of H&HS, Benita McLarin, has been introducing herself to various program staff and partners. Cicily has found her very supportive.
- c. Nga Le gave a PowerPoint presentation on the results of the survey of Community Forum participants. There were 24 participants in all. They were asked what services they used the most, how they rated the services in terms of satisfaction, if they had heard of the HIV/AIDS Care Council and for their topics of interest. The results were in a hand-out distributed to all Council members. There was brief discussion. CM Wade Flores observed that the presentations dominated the Forum. He felt that there should be more time on the Forum agenda for discussion and sharing. The agenda for the 2020 Forum should be restructured.

X. Presentation – Syringe Access Program:

- a. Cicily Emerson gave a PowerPoint presentation providing background and justification for this program. This program was initiated in response to the escalating opioid epidemic. RxSafe Marin and the California Opioid Safety Network have set out the following priorities to address this crisis: (1) Safe Prescribing through amended prescribing guidelines; (2) Increased Access to treatment; (3) Harm Reduction through increased availability of Naloxone and needle exchange. She showed that due to these efforts, opioid prescriptions fell in 2018, and Buprenorphine prescriptions increased.
- b. Cicily Emerson stated that syringe exchange is an evidence-based program and reviewed the benefits, including the following:
 - i. Increased safe disposal of used syringes, rather than having them litter the streets and parks
 - ii. Reduced syringe sharing among users
 - iii. Decreased transmission of HIV, Hepatitis B and C.
- c. Cicily stated that Syringe Access was originally authorized by the Board of Supervisors in the 1990's. An opportunity for public comment is made available every two years. The success of the program in the Bay Area has led to low rates of HIV transmission among drug users. The Spahr Center has operated the program

since 1999 and moved to a mobile program in December of 2018 which unfortunately led to decreased use. Cicily's presentation was provided to Council members in a hand-out.

- d. Andy Fyne described the Syringe Exchange program at the Spahr Center. Users are encouraged to bring back used needles but are given as many new needles as requested. CM Wade Flores asked about users re-selling the syringes. This was acknowledged and seen as a way of distributing to users who do not come in to the access locations. A goal of the program is getting to zero new infections and deaths. At the access locations, they can do rapid-testing. There are five sites in Marin County. The Spahr Center is working with the Marin chapter of CAMFT (California Marriage and Family Therapists) to reach out to the homeless at all homeless encampments. Most of the homeless are polydrug users. He reviewed the materials available to users at the Syringe Access sites, including fentanyl testing strips, naloxone, cookers, etc. There was brief discussion of how to encourage users to enter treatment. Andy Fyne stated that building trust and rapport are the necessary first step and then observing when a user may be open to change.

XI. Break

XII. Meeting Calendar Review: Nga Le gave a PowerPoint presentation with a list of meetings for the 2020 calendar year and the tentative agenda for each meeting.

- a. She stated that the next meeting will be on March 11th and will include a presentation on ARIES data. There will be time for another presentation as well which has not yet been scheduled. CM Wade Flores requested that the ARIES data presentation be of bullet points rather than a detailed description of the data itself; the data should be presented in full in a hand-out. This will allow more time for questions and discussion.
- b. Nga Le then asked Council members to provide her with topics they would like addressed in future meetings. The following were provided: Substance Use and Recovery services; AIDS 2020 Conference July 6 – 10; Housing Authority; Whole Person Care program.
- c. Nga Le asked for a decision regarding the date for the 2020 Community Forum. October 7th was selected. This is a tentative date which will be finalized at a later meeting.
- d. Nga Le will send calendar invitations to all the meeting dates.

XIII. Membership – Interview: Nga Le briefly reviewed the application and interview process. Then, the Council members interviewed Leslie Gallen for membership. Each member asked Ms. Gallen one question from a pre-determined list of seven which was provided as a hand-out to all

members. Following the interview, Ms. Gallen left the room, having been advised that a decision regarding her membership would be provided to her within 48 hours.

XIV. Membership / Renewal / Application Review - VOTE –

- a. CM Wade Flores moved that Leslie Gallen be accepted as a member of the HIV/AIDS Care Council. The motion was seconded by Bobby Moske. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. The Council members were given two Care Council member applications to review: Lydia Arellano and Jodie Campbell. Bobby Moske moved that Lydia Arellano be offered an interview. The motion was seconded by Linda Dobra. The motion passes unanimously. Elaine Flores moved that Jodie Campbell be offered an interview. The motion was seconded by Bobby Moske. The motion passed unanimously. There was a recommendation to provide new members with an orientation to the Care Council that includes information on the council, funding/budgets, and services.
- c. Elaine Flores, Esmeralda Garcia, James Frazier, and Julie Dowling are all up for membership renewal. Bobby Moske moved that all four people be retained as Council members for another two years. The motion was seconded by Linda Dobra. The motion passed unanimously.
- d. The Council members were encouraged to recruit clinicians and consumers to join the Council.

XV. Next Steps – New Business – None.

XVI. Adjourn

CM Wade Flores adjourned the meeting at 5:07 pm.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 2020
 Health & Wellness Campus
 3240 Kerner Blvd, Room 110
 San Rafael, CA 94903
 3:00 – 5:00 pm**