



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**

May 12, 2021

Marin County Health & Wellness Campus

Meeting conducted via Zoom

3:00 – 5:30 pm

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I. Call to Order

CM Elaine Flores called meeting to order at 3:02 pm.

II. Roll Call

Council Members Present at Roll Call: Elaine Flores, Wade Flores, Bobby Moske, Jodie Campbell, Lydia Arellano, Julie Dowling, Alex Nizovskikh

Council Members Arriving Late: None.

Council Members Absent: Esmeralda Garcia, Linda Dobra, Leslie Gallen

Staff Present: Nga Le, Cicily Emerson, Deborah Gallagher, Loretta Rogers (HHS)

Public Present: None.

III. Review and approval of Agenda – VOTE

CM Elaine Flores asked members to review the draft agenda.

CM Bobby Moske moved to approve the draft agenda. The motion was seconded by CM Julie Dowling. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes – VOTE

a. March 10, 2021 meeting minutes – CM Elaine Flores asked members to review the March 10, 2021 meeting minutes. CM Julie Dowling moved to approve the minutes. CM Alex Nizovskikh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. General Announcements: CM Bobby Moske announced that there will be a Rally for Pride event this year, but it has been delayed as the County will not allow in-person events yet. Dana Van Gorder (Spahr Center) knows more about it. Bobby will announce the date as soon as it is determined. It will be in Novato.

VI. Public Comment: None.

VII. Co-Chair Report: There was no report from CM Elaine Flores. CM Wade Flores asked that members who have questions raise their hands and be recognized. He reported that as a result of discussions at the last HIV Care Council meeting regarding Marin Community Clinics (MCC) oral health services, there has been positive movement at MCC to follow up on the Council members' suggestions. There will be further meetings on this subject with MCC to review progress in August or September. He thanked the members for speaking up.

VIII. Prevention Program Report:

- a. CM Linda Dobra was on vacation, so the report was provided by Nga Le. She reported that the program is slowly returning to normal activities and work is being done with subcontractors. We are trying to test more people for Hep-C and HIV now that people are getting vaccinated.
- b. CM Bobby Moske reported that the Spahr Center is recruiting for a Prevention Program Coordinator – Bilingual to work with Andy Fyne.
- c. CM Elaine Flores reported that she is hearing from the community that they are seeing more used needles in the community. CM Bobby Moske reported that the person in charge of that program, Rhiannon Saltzman, is no longer at Spahr Center and they are looking for a replacement. He doesn't know if that had anything to do with the problems, but he will pass on Elaine's complaint.

IX. Presentation – Annual Client Satisfaction Survey: Nga Le gave a PowerPoint presentation on the results of the 2020-2021 annual client satisfaction survey. The PowerPoint presentation was emailed to all members. She will send the comments from the survey to all members after the meeting.

- a. Nga reported that there are 281 clients, but not all of them have addresses on file or have agreed to receive mailings. Therefore, only 174 surveys were mailed out. It was emailed to those who indicated it was all right to email them. 67 surveys were returned. This is a response rate of about 39% which is about 5% lower than last year. Those people who returned the survey will receive a \$20.00 Safeway gift card incentive. They will be sent out early next week.
- b. The majority of the respondents were white (60%) and Hispanic (22%) and over the age of 50.
- c. She reviewed the service categories and then showed the results of the survey for each category. Oral health and primary care (outpatient ambulatory care for the uninsured / undocumented) received the lowest satisfaction scores. Health insurance premiums, support groups and food cards received the highest satisfaction scores. She showed the results from last year for comparison. She

also pointed out that the dissatisfaction numbers are still very small, representing the responses of just a few people.

- d. She reviewed a summary of the comments, both positive and negative and then the survey respondents' self-report on their state of health.
- e. CM Jodie Campbell asked what is meant by "provider." At MCC, HIV patients have two providers, one primary and one for HIV. Nga Le stated that it is their HIV provider.
- f. There was brief general discussion, particularly about getting more responses to future surveys. It was felt that explaining to respondents the purpose of the survey and how it affects the distribution of grant money could help in eliciting more response.

X. Presentation: Deborah Gallagher gave a PowerPoint presentation on the HIV Surveillance and Epidemiology data in Marin County. A copy of the presentation was sent to all members via email.

- a. Sources: She reported that her data comes from two sources: Laboratories via HIV-related lab reports or Health Care Providers via HIV case reports. These are both sent to local health departments and then the data is sent on to the California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS, and finally to the CDC.
- b. She defined the word "incidence" which refers to the occurrence of new cases in a defined population over a specified period of time.
- c. She reported the incidence of HIV over the past 30 years i.e. 1981 to 2020, separating out the San Quentin numbers from the general community. The chart shows the number of reported cases, the number of deaths and the number of living cases. In Marin County there are 622 living cases. The 622 number may not reflect who is currently living in Marin County as some may have moved away and others moved in. Also, it is important to note that the state reported only the combined number for Marin County i.e. includes the San Quentin numbers.
- d. The next chart showed cases, deaths and those living with HIV over the last 10 years. In 2020, there were 16 new cases. The deaths reflect deaths of people living with HIV from all causes. The average number of deaths per year is nine. In the last five years, about 80% of deaths were not directly related to having HIV and about 20% were.
- e. The next chart showed that typically cases are about 80% male and 20% female, although in the last year, the incidence was closer to 90% male and 10% female. The 25 to 39-year-old people have the highest number of cases and the highest incidence rate. She also reviewed race/ethnicity numbers and transmission category numbers.
- f. She reported that all 12 newly diagnosed cases of HIV were in care and receiving viral suppression treatment six months and 12 months after diagnosis. These are very good numbers. These figures were for 2019. Finally, she reviewed the limitations on the data she presented.

- g. CM Jodie Campbell asked about the number of undiagnosed HIV patients. Deborah Gallagher stated that this is a very hard number to get at. There are estimates on the national level but not for Marin County specifically. CM Jodie Campbell also wondered if HIV is now receiving less attention; she reports not seeing PSAs about it, etc. Deborah Gallagher says she sees more HIV medication commercials now so perhaps HIV is becoming more mainstream. There are lots of good advances in treatment now. Council members should feel free to send her their questions via email.

XI. Division of Public Health Report: Cicily Emerson reported the following:

- a. The vaccine roll-out is going well. The Public Health Department is now working on plans to demobilize the extra staff that was hired to help with the effort. However, vaccination efforts will be on-going until the county reaches the percentage of residents vaccinated that is the goal. The super-PODs at 3240 Kerner and the Marin Center are closing at the end of May. Throughout May, they will be giving 2nd shots only. The County has just uploaded a “Vaccine Finder” page which has listed all the vaccination locations in the county, along with their dates, hours of operation, vaccines available, and appointment requirements. A lot of them operate on a walk-in basis only.
- b. Last week, the Pfizer vaccine was approved by the FDA for adolescents aged 12 to 15. We anticipate that all approvals will be made by tomorrow morning and vaccination of this age group will begin. We anticipate that approval of Pfizer vaccine for children ages 2 to 11 will be given in the fall.
- c. Marin County is not yet in the Yellow Tier. We seem to be wavering between orange and yellow. We did not move to the Yellow Tier last week as we had an up-tic in cases over the May 1 – 2 weekend.
- d. The governor has announced that California will open its economy completely on June 15. Life should return to normal although we anticipate masking will still be required. We will see what Marin adopts of the state guidelines over the next month.
- e. A new staff member, Cheyenne Self, is working on HIV grants. We hope to have CM Linda Dobra return from her COVID tasks to normal, HIV-related activities soon. Cicily is working on a coverage plan for when Nga Le goes on maternity leave which will probably be around mid-June. Cicily will be helping to support the HIV/AIDS contractors
- f. CM Elaine Flores asked about mobile units. Cicily Emerson stated that the mobile units are a County effort. We have contracted with Curative is providing part of this service. We will be partnering with Safeway to provide vaccinations. There are plans to do events as well. The best place to find out about these activities is the County website.
- g. Also, the County will continue to maintain its four disaster response teams, one each for Novato, the Canal, West Marin and Marin City,

even after the end of the pandemic. The plan is to have them available for response to any future public health threat. This is a way for the County to work with community partners on public health preparedness.

- h. She stated that soon the Council may be able to meet in person again.
- i. CM Wade Flores asked how the vaccination efforts are coming. Cicily Emerson replied that we have had over 80% of the over 16 year old population receive at least one dose and over 70% have received two doses. We're doing well. CM Bobby Moske stated that Marin County has done an incredible job of managing this pandemic. Other members agreed with his assessment. Cicily Emerson stated that the County has had a strong Immunization Coordinator, which was a big help.

XII. Presentation – Service Category Summary Sheets: Nga Le gave a presentation on the service category summary sheets. A copy of this document was sent to all members.

- a. There is one sheet per service category. Each sheet provides the name of the service; which Ryan White grant funds it, Part A (Spahr Center) or Part B (Marin Community Clinics); the amount budgeted; the amount actually spent; the number of clients contracted to be served; and the number of clients actually services
- b. Council members asked about Oral Health. MC Bobby Moske noted that Dental Services at Marin Community Clinics was closed for five or six months and yet it seems a lot of the grant funds were spent. CM Wade Flores agreed and wondered why they needed more funds when they weren't seeing patients. CM Jodie Campbell stated that they were at least partially used for emergency dental needs. In any case, Nga Le said that she would investigate and report back to the Council.

XIII. Bylaws/Policy Review:

- a. CM Wade Flores proposed that the Council shorten the process for vetting and voting in new Council members. He proposed that a prospective member must attend a Council meeting and at that meeting he/she would be given an application to fill out right then. The Council chairs would review the application and if approved, the prospective member would be interviewed at the next meeting and voted on. It would be a two-step process. There was brief general discussion.
- b. VOTE: CM Julie Dowling moved that this new process be adopted. CM Bobby Moske seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Membership Discussion:

- a. Lydia Arellano stated that she is now working for the County again. Her work role changes almost from day to day. She does not expect that her position will be permanent. However, she felt that, in the interests of transparency, she would inform the Council of her change in status which may involve conflict of interest. She stated that she would be willing to withdraw from the Council for the duration of her County employment, if that is what the Council decides. There was brief discussion.
- b. VOTE: CM Bobby Moske moved that Lydia Arellano remain an active member of the Council for the duration of her County employment. She can recuse herself from any vote that may involve conflict of interest. CM Julie Dowling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

XV. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:14 pm

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, June 9, 2021**
 Location: Via Zoom
 3:00 – 5:30 pm