



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
MINUTES**

June 9, 2021

Marin County Health & Wellness Campus

Meeting conducted via Zoom

3:00 – 5:30 pm

Benita McLarin, FACHE
DIRECTOR

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

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DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

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I. Call to Order

CM Elaine Flores called the meeting to order at 3:09 pm.

II. Roll Call

Council Members Present at Roll Call: Elaine Flores, Wade Flores, Bobby Moske, Jodie Campbell, Lydia Arellano, Julie Dowling, Alexy Nizovskikh, Leslie Gallen, James Frazier, Linda Dobra, Esmeralda Garcia

Council Members Arriving Late: None.

Council Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Nga Le, Cicily Emerson, Benita McLarin, Julia Dorman, Christine Valladon, Loretta Rogers (HHS)

Public Present: None.

III. Review and approval of Agenda – VOTE

CM Wade Flores asked members to review the draft agenda.

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

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes – VOTE

a. May 12, 2021 meeting minutes – CM Wade Flores asked members to review the May12, 2021 meeting minutes. CM Esmeralda Garcia moved to approve the minutes. CM Alexy Nizovskikh seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. General Announcements:

- a. CM James Frazier stated that he was glad to be back, attending the Council meetings.
- b. Benita McLarin, Director of Health & Human Services, introduced herself and thanked Council members for all their work and

contributions. She wished Council members “Happy Pride Month” and “Happy Juneteenth Month.” With the waning of the pandemic, it will be good that the Council and the County generally can give attention to other priorities. She urged Council members to contact her if they had questions or needed help. CM Bobby Moske thanked Benita McLarin for her support.

VI. Public Comment: Christine Valladon introduced herself. She works for Gilead Sciences. Julia Dorman introduced herself. She is a program coordinator with HHS and will be helping Nga Le, particularly as Nga goes on maternity leave.

VII. Co-Chair Report: There was no report from CM Elaine Flores. CM Wade Flores wished all members “Happy Pride Month.” He was happy that we all made it through the pandemic and that the state will be opening up on June 15th.

VIII. Prevention Program Report: CM Linda Dobra stated that she had no updates to report.

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

- a. Governor Gavin Newsom will open up the state and dispense with the Tier categories. New guidelines for masking will be issued. This will mean that vaccinated persons will not have to wear a mask in almost all outdoor settings and almost all indoor settings with the exception of public transportation, schools and other. The County is opening up next month and so the HIV/AIDS Care Council will have the option of meeting in person, although the County does not yet have specific guidelines for in-person meetings. She asked Council members if they feel ready to meet in person. There was very brief discussion of the pros and cons of meeting in person or via Zoom. It was proposed that the Council could alternate.
- b. Things are going well, thanks to high vaccination rates made possible by the PODs and mobile vaccination units. Marin’s vaccination rates are the highest in the state and in the nation for counties with a population over 250,000. 88% of Marin’s population 12 years of age and over have had at least one dose of vaccine and almost 80% have received two doses.
- c. There will be a Townhall Webinar on Thursday with Dr. Matt Willis, Dr. Lisa Santora, Dr. Laura Eberhard (Kaiser), the mayor of San Anselmo. The purpose will be to address plans going forward after June 15th.
- d. She congratulated Nga Le on her up-coming delivery of a healthy baby boy.

- X. **Presentation – Year-end Review:** Nga Le shared her screen and gave a PowerPoint presentation which was emailed to all members.
 - a. She reviewed the purpose of the year-end review, which was to prioritize services, establishing what are the most important needs of Marin residents living with HIV/AIDS and to allocate funding based on these priorities.
 - b. She reviewed the timeline, showing that at the March meeting Deborah Gallagher reviewed the HIV/AIDS patient data. At the May meeting, the client satisfaction survey results were reported. Now, at this June meeting, services will be prioritized, and funds allocated.
 - c. She reviewed the data sources on which decisions are to be based, which included the ARIES data overview, the client satisfaction survey results, the service category summary sheets and epi data.
 - d. She reviewed each service category for the 2020/21 fiscal year (March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2021), showing how much was budgeted and how much money was spent, and which services were actually provided. She answered questions from Council members, clarifying the data. There was particularly a question regarding Oral Health where the data didn't seem to match the Council members' experience of services actually provided. CM Lydia Arellano thought there might be a problem with recording and an audit may be needed. Nga Le said that she will look into this matter and report back to the Council.
 - e. She reviewed the definition of each service category so that it was clear to Council members what services were actually provided.
 - f. Finally, she reviewed the rankings determined by the Care Council in the last five years.

- XI. **Presentation: Conflict of Interest Review:** In preparation for determining service priorities and allocations, Nga Le shared her screen and presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding Conflict of Interest.
 - a. She reviewed the definition of a conflict of interest: Conflict of interest may be defined as an interest by a Council member in an action that may result in personal, organizational, or professional gain or give the appearance of such gain.
 - b. She then reviewed each of the Council members and their affiliations. CM Linda Dobra is a non-voting member. The members who were affiliated with MCC would recuse themselves from the prioritization and allocation for the first three services i.e. Primary Care, Dental Care and Medical Case Management. Members affiliated with the Spahr Center will recuse themselves from prioritization and allocation on the rest of the services.
 - c. She then reviewed the Conflict of Interest Disclosure form which the Council members cannot sign as the meeting is being conducted via Zoom. Therefore, Nga did a roll call of the members, asking each one to declare their conflict of interest which constituted a verbal signature.

XII. Break: The members took a 10 minute break to review the services and make decisions as to prioritization.

XIII. Prioritization and Allocation:

- a. Prioritization:** Nga Le called on each Council member to provide their prioritization decisions and entered them onto her spreadsheet. The final decisions will be emailed to all members.
 - i.** There was brief discussion and questions. CM Bobby Moske asked if allocations could be delayed until more accurate or clarified numbers were obtained. Nga Le pointed out that the allocations can change based on new information and perceived need. So it was decided to go forward.
- b. VOTE:** CM Bobby Moske moved to accept the prioritization rankings. CM Julie Dowling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- c. Allocations:** Nga Le reviewed previous allocations plus actual spending and services provided. Again, it was noted that in the 2020/21 FY year, Primary Care spent only \$9,457 of its allocated \$20,500 budget and served 129 patients. The remaining Primary Care funds were moved to Oral Care which served only 10 patients but spent \$46,743 which was over their budgeted \$35,000 amount. This did not appear to make sense. There was brief discussion. Again, Nga Le stated that these were the numbers derived from the ARIES report, but she will look into these numbers for greater justification and clarification.
 - i.** Nga Le had previously emailed the allocation spreadsheet / decision matrix to all Council members so that those who do not have access to Zoom can follow. She noted that the allocations are for the FY 2022 / 2023 i.e. for March 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023. The assumption is that the budget for this FY will be the same as for FY 2021/2022 i.e. \$525,492.00. She then reviewed the County's allocation proposals for each service area and some of the changes that were made by the Council last year.
 - ii.** CM Bobby Moske proposed to reduce Medical Transportation from \$17,177 to \$12,000 and move the \$5,177 to Psychosocial Support. There was general discussion. CM Wade Flores asked that the Spahr Center group be more community based and include more than just women. CM Bobby Moske replied that there is a Pride Group that meets via Zoom which is both women and men. He also noted that participation in this group went up because it was on Zoom and eliminated transportation issues for attendees. Many people do not want to go back to in-person meetings. Outreach is very important for increasing participation. CM Julie Dowling stated that there is a need for a women's group. CM Leslie Gallen confirmed that the Spahr Center has never been out of money for transportation, but rather would move excess transportation

funds to another category. Uber rides are usually for people who have mobility issues. CM Jodie Campbell asked about the use of Whistlestop or public transit. CM Leslie Gallen reported that with Whistlestop, people report having to wait a long time to be picked up and then having to make another appointment with a long wait for a return trip home. CM Lydia Arellano stated that people will need more psychosocial support coming out of the pandemic, so she supported giving more funds to this service. CM Wade Flores asked about those people who do not have computers or access to Zoom. CM Leslie Gallen stated that there is an agency that provides remade computers to people and the Spahr Center can pay for Internet connection for people who are at the -135% of the poverty level. There was a proposal to put the \$5,177 toward providing broadband for those who cannot afford it. She will send out the information about this program to Council members. Also, she noted that to increase participation in groups, the Spahr Center did encourage car pooling and did provide food at the groups. Zoom has made both those categories non-essential.

- iii. **VOTE:** CM Bobby Moske moved to accept the County proposed allocation with this exception: Reduce Medical Transportation from \$17,177 to \$12,000 and move the \$5,177 to Psychosocial Support. CM Leslie Gallen will send information about the broadband support for follow-up. CM Julie Dowling seconded the motion. Nga Le conducted a roll call vote and the motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Membership Discussion: None.

XV. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 14, 2021
Location: Via Zoom
3:00 – 5:00 pm