



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**

July 14, 2021

Marin County Health & Wellness Campus

Meeting conducted via Zoom

3:00 – 5:00 pm

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DIRECTOR

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I. Call to Order

CM Elaine Flores called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

II. Roll Call

Council Members Present at Roll Call: Elaine Flores, Wade Flores, Bobby Moske, Jodie Campbell, Lydia Arellano, Leslie Gallen, Linda Dobra, Esmeralda Garcia

Council Members Arriving Late: None.

Council Members Absent: Julie Dowling, Alexy Nizovskikh, James Frazier

Staff Present: Julia Dorman, Cicily Emerson, Benita McLarin, Loretta Rogers (HHS)

Public Present: Dana Van Gorder (The Spahr Center)

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 Lydia Arellano. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes – VOTE

- a. June 9, 2021 meeting minutes – CM Wade Flores asked members to review the June 9, 2021 meeting minutes. CM Esmeralda Garcia moved to approve the minutes. CM Leslie Gallen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. General Announcements:

- a. CM Leslie Gallen announced that the Spahr Center food pantry was closed for the next 30 days. It will reopen at the end of that period and food deliveries will resume.

- b. Benita McLarin, Director of Health & Human Services, expressed her support and appreciation for all the work done by the Council.

VI. Public Comment: None.

VII. Co-Chair Report: There was no report from CM Elaine Flores. CM Wade Flores announced that he will need to leave the meeting at about 4:00 pm.

VIII. Prevention Program Report: CM Linda Dobra reported the following:

- a. There was a zoom call with the state around metrics and reporting for HCV and STD grants.
- b. She will be in the office tomorrow and in contact with jail medical.
- c. Questions: CM Elaine Flores stated that she received a report on used needles at a homeless encampment in San Rafael. She noted that the homeless have been moved to one place now which has 24-hour security. But more used needles have been seen. CM Bobby Moske reported that the Spahr Center continues its needle exchange program and gave some details. CM Linda Dobra stated that she will follow up with Lynn Murphy from SRPD to find out more about needle situation down under the freeway encampments and see if Andy Fyne knows anything about this from needle exchange discussions.

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

- a. The EOC is in process of being deactivated
- b. There is some restructuring going on at HHS. A new division director is being hired who will supervise the following programs:
 - i. Communicable Disease (Acute CD, Rabies, Lead, TB, Immunization)
 - ii. Outbreak Prevention Infection Control (Residential Facilities, Schools, Testing)
 - iii. Community Response and Outreach (Contact Investigation, Community Response Teams, HIV/STD/HCV Programs)
 - iv. Vaccine (Mobile Vaccination Units, Home and Facility Vaccination, Planning and Outreach)
 - v. Public Health Preparedness (Advanced Planning, Health Care Partnership Program)
- c. COVID-19: There has been a spike in new cases since the June 15 reopening and the Delta variant. We are seeing some break-through cases i.e. vaccinated people getting mild illness, but no new deaths. We continue with testing, vaccination and contact tracing.
- d. The new variant dashboard has been added to the County's website so that the public can see which variants are now circulating in the County. At present, the Delta variant is most common. The County has been tracking variants more since April. About half of positive tests are being submitted for Whole Genome Sequencing to determine the variant.

- e. Soon, Linda Dobra will return to her previous tasks with the HIV program as new staff have been hired to work on COVID.
- f. Cheyenne Self is being trained to do Hepatitis C testing. She will do an outreach plan. Plans are in process for pilot projects in the jail for testing, screening, and navigation.
- g. The zone teams will continue to operate, one each for West Marin, Marin City, Novato and the Canal. They will deal with not only COVID-19 but also HIV, assuring that services for HIV can be done. Cicily urged members to call her with questions or concerns.
- h. Questions: Cicily asked for questions from members.
 - i. CM Wade Flores asked if there will be a booster shot in the fall. Cicily stated that there are no plans for booster shots at this point. The County will be following CDC guidelines.
 - ii. CM Bobby Moske noted that at Safeway about half of staff and patrons were masked. He asked about current masking guidance. Cicily stated that masking is on the honor system. The unvaccinated should be masked. For the vaccinated, it is each person's decision. Masks will be worn in schools. HIV positive persons should take extra precautions. CM Leslie Gallen stated that Spahr Center employees continue to wear masks.

- X. **Community Forum Planning:** There was general discussion regarding the date and time, whether or not the forum would be in person, whether or not to ask attendees to provide proof of vaccination, masking and other. The following were decided:
 - a. The Forum will be held on Thursday, October 21st, 2021, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. The location will be open at 5:00 pm for socializing.
 - b. The forum will be in person with an option for virtual.
 - c. The location is still to be determined. Several suggestions were made.
 - d. An ad hoc committee to plan the forum was formed of CM Bobby Moske, CM Esmeralda Garcia, CM Elaine Flores, CM Wade Flores. This committee will meet on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at 3:00 pm. The decisions of the ad hoc committee will be presented to the Council for a vote at the September 8, 2021 meeting.
 - e. CM Bobby Moske moved that the above decisions be adopted by the Council. CM Esmeralda Garcia seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - f. Cicily Emerson asked that Council members let her know what speakers they would like at the Forum and she will help with this. There was general discussion of what topics should be addressed. CM Bobby Moske suggested oral health. CM Linda Dobra suggested mental health and resilience.

XI. **Break:** None.

XII. **Membership:** CM Elaine Flores stated that the Council needs to recruit more members. She reviewed the changes made at the last meeting for vetting and onboarding new members so that it is now a two-step process

instead of a four-step process. She asked members for more strategies for recruiting members. CM Leslie Gallen stated that the Council needs more providers among its members. CM Bobby Moske asked Dana Van Gorder if the Spahr Center could include a recruitment blurb for the Council in its newsletter, particularly targeting clients who are taking PrEP. Dana Van Gorder agreed to this and said that the Spahr Center also does mailings to its HIV positive clients and can include a recruitment blurb for the Council in these mailings. He also said that he can provide speakers on PrEP for the Forum, is that is wanted. CM Esmeralda Garcia suggested that in future the Council could make it possible for members to attend virtually even after the Council resumed in-person meetings. Cicily Emerson said that this is possible.

XIII. Co-Chair Nominations: CM Bobby Moske nominated CM Esmeralda Garcia and CM Lydia Arellano as co-chairs for next year. CM Elaine Flores nominated CM Wade Flores for another term. All nominees accepted their nominations. A vote will be taken at the September 8, 2021 meeting.

XIV. Next Meeting's Agenda: Cicily Emerson noted that there will be no meeting in August. The next meeting will be on September 8, 2021. She asked for possible agenda items. The following were suggested:

- a. Report from the ad hoc committee for the Community Forum and decision.
- b. Calendar for next year.
- c. World AIDS Day planning

XV. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 4:26 pm

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 8, 2021
Location: In person at 3240 Kerner and virtual
3:00 – 5:00 pm