



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 13, 2022**

**Marin County Health & Wellness Campus**

Meeting conducted via Zoom and in person

3:00 – 5:00 pm

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**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Roll Call**

Council Members Present at Roll Call: Bobby Moske, Elaine Flores, Wade Flores, Linda Dobra, Alexey Nizovskikh, Julie Dowling, Jimi Amos, Julie Case, James Frazier

Council Members Arriving Late: Esmeralda Garcia

Council Members Absent: Leslie Gallen, Lydia Arellano

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

Public Present: Racquel Beltran (MCC), Leigha Andrews (MCC); Mikoyan Lagrimas (MCC)

**III. Review and approval of Agenda – VOTE**

CM Wade Flores asked members to review and approve the draft agenda. Nga Le pointed out that because Lydia Arellano and Leslie Gallen are not present, they cannot be voted on for renewal. CM Julie Dowling moved to approve the agenda as amended. CM Elaine Flores seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**IV. Review and Approval of Minutes – VOTE**

a. June 8, 2022, meeting minutes – CM Wade Flores asked members to review the June 8, 2022, meeting minutes. CM Elaine Flores moved to approve the minutes. CM Julie Dowling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**V. General Announcements:** CM Wade Flores asked for any announcements.

a. CM Wade Flores announced that Spahr has an AIDS walk event.

**VI. Public Comment:** None.

**VII. Co-Chair Report:** None.

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

1. Hep C testing along with HIV testing continues in the Jail.
2. There are continued efforts to get Community Education sessions reinstated in the Jail pods with Spahr staff.
3. The Support Service Area (SSA), the homeless tent village under the freeway, will close in the next two weeks. The Spahr Center and Ritter have been working with the clients in the SSA. Those who are not slated to be housed will remain homeless as they were prior to the creation of the SSA.
4. The California STD Branch reported that the new HIV infections among IDU population are 42% Latino, 43% White and 10% Black in age range 25-44 years. Hearing this, Linda believes our efforts to test the jail population will reach those who fit this demographic, so she is encouraged that we are testing in the right location.
5. Monkeypox vaccine – *Steamworks* has the vaccine available on Wednesdays at noon throughout July on a first come/first served basis. Marin has requested a larger allocation to distribute once received. MSM on PrEP will be the highest tier of interest. Marin Public Health will work closely with providers of PrEP. Right now, Marin is only vaccinating those who are suspect by investigation or those named as close contacts.

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

- a. COVID-19 transmission levels remain high.
- b. Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have been approved for children 6 months to 5 years. The formulation for this age group is different than that for children 12 and older. This vaccine is now available.
- c. Vaccine for monkeypox is available on a limited basis at this time. HHS is working to obtain a larger supply.
- d. Ken Shapiro, Chief Assistant Director and Chief Operating Officer for HHS is leaving. Jei Africa, Director of Behavioral Health and Recovery Services, has also resigned.
- e. Nga Le reported that HHS received an increase from the Ryan White Part A grant for FY 22-23 in the amount of \$22,750. She recommended using the additional funds to provide extra food vouchers to Ryan White clients in view of the increased prices of food. CM Bobby Moske made a motion to accept the recommendation and CM Julie Dowling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**X. Oral Health Update:** Racquel Beltran provided the following update:

- a. She noted that fewer Ryan White patients seem to be coming in lately, but MCC is tracking them with new software. So far, all of that is going well.
- b. She thanked Council members for the feedback. It was good to know that MCC's efforts were resulting in improvements of service. It was good to know that the satisfaction survey showed that client satisfaction with MCC Dental went from 70% to 90%.
- c. There was feedback that patients were having problems with forms and MCC staff was not able to be as helpful as needed. Racquel will conduct training of staff to rectify this problem. She noted that there has been a lot of staff turn-over in those positions, but training will be on-going to cover all new staff.
- d. MCC had one Ryan White patient who needed specialty care in April and several more are lined up for August.
- e. CM Bobby Moske stated that he has noted the improvements and thanked Racquel. CM Wade Flores noted that Ryan White patients are still having problems with transportation to and from appointments. Racquel responded that as of April, MCC Dental has funds to cover that service. CM Wade Flores said that the problem that was reported to him occurred last month. Racquel asked Wade to send her the information via email so that she can follow up. Also, the patients themselves can send her an email at [rwidental@marinclinic.org](mailto:rwidental@marinclinic.org) Racquel and two other staff members monitor that email account.

**XI. HIV Surveillance Report:** Deborah Gallagher gave a PowerPoint presentation and reported the following:

- a. She explained the source of the data. Both providers and laboratories are required by law to report positive HIV cases to the local health department which in turn reports the data to the California Department of Public Health, Office of AIDS. California in turn passes the information on to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- b. She reported that from 1981 to 2021, there have been 2,139 new HIV cases in Marin County, about one-third of which were in San Quentin and two-thirds in the community. Community cases were in people who lived in Marin County at the time of diagnosis. As of now, 880 diagnosed patients are still alive.
- c. She then reviewed the number of new cases, the number of deaths and the number of people living with HIV in Marin County, 2012 – 2021. She noted that there was no significant drop in new cases during the pandemic.
- d. However, nationally, there was a 17% decrease in new HIV diagnoses during the pandemic. This could have been due to disruptions in clinic services and other causes.
- e. She reviewed the demographics of people diagnosed with HIV, in two five-year periods: 2012-2016 and 2017-2021. She noted there was a drop in cases in the 2017-2021 period. There was no change in

gender i.e. 83% were male. There were fewer diagnoses in persons over the age of 50 and there was an increase in diagnoses in Hispanic persons in the 2017-2021 period; in fact, 50% of all new cases were Hispanic.

- f. She stated that MSM is still the most common way infection is transmitted followed by IV drug use.
- g. Regarding continuity of care, data showed that Marin did not lose any HIV patients to care during the pandemic.
- h. She reviewed the prevalence of HIV infection in Marin which showed no great change. She also reviewed the characteristics of people living with HIV in Marin. There was a slight drop in the number of people in care and who were virally suppressed.
- i. There were brief questions.

**XII. Presentation: Service Category Summary Sheets:** Due to time constraints, it was agreed to postpone this presentation to the next meeting.

**XIII. Membership:**

- a. CM Bobby Moske made a motion to approve Elaine Flores and Esmeralda Garcia for membership renewal to the Council. CM Linda Dobra seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- b. The Council interviewed Mikoyan Lagrimas for membership to the Council. CM Linda Dobra made the motion to hold the vote and CM Bobby Moske seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken with seven voting in favor of offering Mr. Lagrimas membership to the Council. The motion passed.

**XIV. Policy Review:** Postponed until the next meeting.

**XV. Next Steps – New Business:** CM Julie Case shared that the projector fan in the meeting room is loud and distracting. Staff will check if another meeting room is available. CM Elaine Flores requested a review of membership demographics. CM Elaine Flores requested a review of what affiliated and unaffiliated membership means. Cicily explained that the conflict-of-interest presentation will include that explanation. Cicily shared that rapid test kits can be provided to members to test before attending the meetings.

**XVI. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 14, 2022, 3:00 to 5:30 pm**  
**Location: 3240 Kerner, Room 109 and via Zoom**