



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 18, 2023**

Marin County Health & Wellness Campus
Meeting conducted via Zoom and in person
3:00 – 5:30 pm

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I. Call to Order

Nga Le called the meeting to order at 3:08 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

Council Members Arriving Late: None.

Council Members Absent: Lydia Arellano (excused); James Frazier (excused)

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

Public Present: Racquel Beltran (MCC); Connie Kadera (MCC)

III. Oral Health Update: Racquel Beltran thanked the Council for its flexibility with regard to the agenda. She reported the following:

- a. She and her staff are working to determine the total grant funds spent on Specialty Care and Primary Care. The recent system change at Marin Community Clinics (MCC) has made this process a bit tricky. MCC Dental is working with case managers to try to get all eligible patients in before the end of the grant's fiscal year which is the end of March. There are still funds available for Specialty Care, so if anyone needs that service, this is available.
- b. She reported that consultations are covered if that service was referred by one of MCC's dentists.
- c. She had a recent phone call with Spahr Center to clarify MCC process in referring patients for Specialty Care.
- d. She confirmed the HIV Stigma training for MCC Dental staff on Wednesday, February 1, 2023, from 8:15 to 9:15 am. It will be conducted via Zoom. Nga Le pointed out that this topic is on today's

agenda. The Council will determine its talking points for the training as well as which Council members will represent that Council at that training. Fifteen minutes of the training time will be set aside for the Council members to present their talking points.

- e. Racquel reminded Council members that construction continues at MCC's Fourth Street location.
- f. Connie Kadera assured Council members that services are still being provided at the Fourth Street location. Council members are to let her know if there are any concerns or problems.
- g. Talking Points: There was general discussion regarding the talking points. Once determined, Nga Le will report same to Racquel Beltran.
 - i. CM Wade Flores said that he would like to talk to the dental staff about body language, what questions to ask, how to put the patient at ease, how to have an open conversation where the patient feels comfortable telling the provider what is going on with them.
 - ii. CM Jimi Amos wanted the staff to know about specialty care that might be needed but not ordinarily offered.
 - iii. CM Bobby Moske stated that MCC Dental staff must be clear about what referred services will be covered and which will not and the process by which referrals are made.
 - iv. CM Linda Dobra stated that plan of care is a priority. Two-way assurance between the provider and client - understanding undetectable viral loads and taking medications consistently.
 - v. CM Alexey Nizovskikh stated that MCC Dental staff should not discuss patient medications in an open space where they can be overheard by others.
 - vi. CM Elaine Flores stated that when a referral is made, MCC Dental should assure that all relevant patient information is provided to the entity receiving the referral.
 - vii. CM Julie Dowling stated that MCC Dental staff should have updated working knowledge of HIV, such as U=U.
 - viii. CM Bobby Moske and CM Wade Flores will attend the training to deliver the talking points. They will attend the full hour of the training and report back to the Council on what they observed.

IV. Review and approval of Agenda – VOTE: Nga Le reported that Racquel Beltran is not feeling well and asked to have her Oral Health Update presentation moved up the agenda to right after roll call. Also, Cicily Emerson asked that her HHS update be moved to when Cicily can join the meeting. The agenda was approved as amended by consensus.

V. Review and Approval of Minutes – VOTE
Nov. 4, 2022, meeting minutes – Nga Le asked members to review the Nov. 4, 2022, meeting minutes. CM Linda Dobra moved to approve the

minutes. CM Wade Flores seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

- VI. General Announcements:** Nga Le asked for any announcements.
 - a. CM Julie Dowling announced that she has resigned her position on the Board of Directors at the Spahr Center and therefore no longer has a conflict of interest.
 - b. CM Elaine Flores stated she had just had her first meeting with her union, the IHSS. She stated the union would like more education on clients who are getting services at Spahr. Also, a goal is to have clients of Spahr aware of opportunities to be an IHSS worker. She invited Julie Dowling to one of their meetings.

- VII. Public Comment:** None.

- VIII. Prevention Program Report:** CM Linda Dobra reported that the Prevention team is putting extra effort into Hepatitis C testing and treatment which has been spearheaded by Dr. Matt Willis. This is just an enhancement to the services already provided in the field, jails and in conjunction with the Spahr and Ritter mobile teams. Other prevention activities continue as usual.

- IX. Division of Public Health Report:** None.

- X. Bylaws Change – VOTE:** Nga Le reported that a change to the Bylaws has been proposed. This would change one of the co-chairs to a government representative. The other co-chair would be a consumer. There was brief general discussion. The proposal was amended to state that the government representative must be a standing member of the Council and to have shown support for HIV programs. CM Bobby Moske moved to accept the amended proposal. CM Julie Case seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- XI. Co-Chair Nominations and Election – VOTE:** Nga Le reported that two Council members have been nominated to be co-chairs for the coming year. CM Linda Dobra was nominated and accepted the nomination. Alexey Nizovskikh was also nominated and accepted the nomination. No other members were nominated. By show of hands, both nominees were elected as co-chairs unanimously by the Council. For the rest of the meeting, CM Linda Dobra will act as chair.

- XII. Membership:**
 - a. CM Linda Dobra reported that Fel Agrelius of the Spahr Center has applied for membership on the Council. Her membership application has been sent to all Council members for review. Council members then took a vote on whether or not to interview Fel. CM Bobby Moske

moved to interview Fel Agrelius for membership on the Council. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Nga Le reported that there is a set list of interview questions, but additional questions can be asked at the end.

- b. Outreach Strategies: Nga Le reported that the purpose of this item was to allow the Council to have a deeper conversation about doing outreach to recruit new members to the Council.
- i. CM Bobby Moske recommended putting the flyer in the Spahrkle newsletter and in their mailers
 - ii. CM Wade Flores suggested finding out what groups meet at the Spahr Center and asking to speak to those groups, inviting members to apply for membership on the Council. The same could be done at MCC.
 - iii. CM Linda Dobra suggested that these presentations include information on how and why the Council started, what type of members the Council is looking for and the benefits of participation. Certainly, the Council is looking for younger members so that there is longevity on the Council. Promotional material would be helpful.
 - iv. CM Elaine Flores suggested putting up flyers at College of Marin.
 - v. CM Julie Dowling stated that the Spahr Center is reaching out to high schools.
 - vi. Nga Le shared her screen and showed the current demographic composition of the Council membership. This breakdown was by race, gender, age and HIV status.
 - vii. CM Elaine Flores suggested that the Council recruit for a younger, African-American woman.
 - viii. CM Julie Case suggested reaching out to people living in West Marin. Geographic representation is also important. She also recommended reaching out to Narcotics anonymous groups.
 - ix. CM Wade Flores stated that if the Council recruits members from the Canal area, they will need to supply an interpreter. Cicily Emerson confirmed that an interpreter can be supplied for these meetings.
 - x. Nga Le said that she can include in the Satisfaction Survey mailing a recruitment flyer.
 - xi. CM Linda Dobra stated that there is an outdated flyer that exists that is included in the application packet. She recommended that the council send a photo of themselves and a brief description of why they are on the council to be included on an updated flyer.

XIII. BREAK

XIV. Community Forum Brainstorm: CM Linda Dobra asked for Council members ideas for topics, locations, suggestions for a date. There was general discussion.

- a. Date: This discussion is happening in the January meeting to allow Council members to select any date in the year for the Forum. Generally, it is in September / October, but it can be another date. Late May 2023 was suggested.
- b. Topics: The following were suggested:
 - i. Dental Services
 - ii. Ask attendees what is working and what is not.
 - iii. HIV Harm Reduction / substance use disorder – speaker from OD Free Marin – Laura Thompson and Paul Harkin were suggested as speakers.
 - iv. Nutrition / Exercise
 - v. Speakers from a San Francisco LGBT group
- c. The event should be free. A \$20.00 gift card should be provided for attendance. A meal will be provided; funds are available for this purpose.
- d. Location: Several locations were suggested. Nga Le will investigate to see their availability, cost, etc.
- e. Plans will be finalized at the April 2023 meeting.
- f. An ad-hoc subcommittee was formed to plan the community forum. Elaine Flores volunteered to be the subcommittee chair and Bobby Moske, Wade Flores, and Julie Case volunteered to be on the Community Forum Subcommittee. They agreed to meet virtually on February 1, at 3pm.

XV. Presentation – Syringe Access Services: Andy Fyne and Chris Brown of the Spahr Center gave a PowerPoint presentation on this topic. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation would be sent to Council members after the meeting.

- a. Chris Brown provided an introduction and overview of the program.
 - i. They offer supplies on a “needs” basis instead of providing one syringe for every used syringe turned in.
 - ii. They offer a variety of supplies, including a variety of syringes, safer smoking supplies, Narcan kits, first aid kits, etc.
 - iii. They offer HIV and HCV Rapid Testing, referrals for treatment, and connection to social services, such as Ritter, Community Action of Marin and other.
 - iv. Safe disposal of used syringes which has been very successful
 - v. He reviewed the staff, which includes support groups, peer-to-peer counseling, outreach to communities of color and MAT navigation.
 - vi. He reviewed the Spahr Center Syringe Access Services’ sources of funding and supplies.

- b. Andy Fyne reported on trends.
 - i. Fentanyl is in the drug supply. Marin is experiencing a little over one fatal overdose per week. About 57% of the fatal overdoses are due to fentanyl. There are about 1 – 2 non-fatal overdoses per day in the county. The Spahr Center is exploring new and more effective ways of distributing information to users.
 - ii. More users are moving from injection to smoking.
 - iii. More fentanyl test strips are being distributed, frequently combined with Narcan kits. The test strips are not highly accurate and does not tell the user how much fentanyl is in the substance tested. Narcan is in high demand.
- c. Chris Brown reported on the Health and Wellness Mobile Outreach program which is a continuation of Ritter’s Street Medicine.
 - i. It is a 3-agency collaboration: Spahr Center, Community Action Marin and Ritter Center
 - ii. It offers primary care and behavioral health care, including MAT and HCV treatment, and individual and group therapy.
 - iii. It offers connection to other services, such as housing, transportation to appointments and harm reduction services.

XVI. Next Steps – New Business: None.

XVII. Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 3:00 pm.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, April 5, 2023, 3:00 to 5:30 pm**
Location: 3240 Kerner, Room 110 and via Zoom