



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
November 2, 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: Elaine Flores, Wade Flores, Linda Dobra, Julie Dowling, Jimi Amos, Julie Case

Council Members Arriving Late: Bobby Moske

Council Members Excused: Lydia Arellano, Alexey Nizovskikh

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

Public Present: Racquel Beltran (MCC); Fel Agrelius (Spahr Center)

III. Review and approval of Agenda – VOTE

Cicily Emerson asked members to review and approve the draft agenda. The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

IV. Review and Approval of Minutes – VOTE

Oct. 12, 2022, meeting minutes – Cicily Emerson asked members to review the Oct. 12, 2022, meeting minutes. The motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

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

- a. **CM Linda Dobra** announced that this Saturday was a celebration at the Albert J. Boro Community Center from 3:00 to 9:00 pm.
- b. **CM Linda Dobra** announced that there will be an Overdose Prevention Summit on November 16th at the Embassy Suites in San Rafael.
- c. **Cicily Emerson** announced that Todd Schirmer is the new director for Marin County's Behavioral Health and Recovery Services.

- d. **CM Elaine Flores** announced that San Francisco’s last council meeting went well and Marin County’s proposal was well received.
- e. **CM Wade Flores** encouraged all members to vote.

VI. Public Comment:

- a. Fel Agrelius reported that Spahr Center is recruiting for the HIV Services Manager position. It is posted on their website and various social media platforms. She encouraged Council members to refer this opening to anyone who might be interested.
- b. Fel Agrelius also reported that the Spahr Center is recruiting for a Street Outreach Worker for Harm Reduction. This position is not related to Ryan White.

VII. Prevention Program Report: None.

VIII. Division of Public Health Report: Cicily Emerson shared her screen and reported the following:

- a. There are many upper respiratory viruses circulating now: RSV, COVID, rhinovirus, parainfluenza, and some unknown viruses that constitute about 20 – 30%. Most are self-limiting, but there is concern about hospitalizations. She gave guidance as to when an individual should seek medical care, e.g., having a fever over 102°F, difficulty breathing, etc.
- b. She reviewed guidance as to when an individual should return to work after an illness such as Covid, RSV, etc.
- c. She reported on the results of wastewater testing, showing what viruses are now circulating.
- d. She reviewed guidance for protecting oneself against these viruses. This included frequent hand-washing, getting a flu shot, etc. A big promotion of booster shots will be coming out in the next couple of weeks. About 36% of eligible residents have gotten their booster. The Northgate/Safeway vaccine clinic will close in December.
- e. She gave an update on Covid, showing that at present the case rate in Marin county is low as are hospitalizations. There is a concern about another surge later in the season.
- f. She reported that Public Health is working to assure eligible residents get their second dose of monkeypox vaccine. Marin Community Clinics accepts drop-ins on Mondays and Thursdays from 1:30 to 4:00 pm. There is no shortage of vaccine at present.

IX. Oral Health Update: Racquel Beltran reported that Marin Community Clinics (MCC) is implementing is new electronic medical records system. MCC has been on this system for a week and a day so far. There is a lot for the staff to learn. A document has been posted on the MCC website regarding this transition. She will send it to Nga Le for distribution to Council members. The implementation has caused delays in registering patients for appointments. She stated that if anyone receives a bill for

services rendered from Oct. 25 on, they should contact Racquel right away. She is working with MCC billing department to assure that everyone covered by Ryan White who does not have Medi-Cal is taken care of. She reminded Council members that construction is scheduled to begin on November 21st at the 4th Street location. It is hoped that the construction will be completed by July 2023, but if there are delays, it may take until the end of 2023. As a result of this construction, some providers will have to work at other locations such as Kerner and Novato. Parking will probably be limited. Finally, there will be a training of MCC staff on February 1, 2023. Council members are free to attend as well, but should bear in mind that the training is only one hour long; therefore, one or two representatives from the Council would probably be best.

- X. **Meeting Schedule Discussion:** Nga Le reported that at present the Council meets seven times per year i.e. every other month with an additional meeting in the summer. There is a recommendation that the Council meeting quarterly, with an additional meeting in the summer. This would mean that the Council would meet five times per year instead of seven times. There was general discussion. The motion was made to meeting five times per year. The motion was seconded and passed.

- XI. **Co-Chair Nominations – VOTE:** Cicily Emerson called for Co-Chair nominations. She noted that it could be possible for a non-member to be one of the Co-Chairs, but it would require a change to the by-laws. There was general discussion. The other would have to be a Council member. VOTE: Julie Dowling moved to put on the agenda of the January meeting the issue of having a non-member be a Co-Chair and change the by-laws. The motion passed. The idea was to make nominations and decide about the Co-Chair question at the January meeting when more members are present. Nominations were for Julie Dowling, Linda Dobra and Alexey Nizovskikh. More nominations can be made in January.

- XII. **BREAK:** There was a five-minute break.

- XIII. **World AIDS Day Planning:** Cicily Emerson called for discussion of World AIDS Day events.
 - a. Regarding a retirement party for Leslie Gallen, Fel Agrelius reported that Leslie preferred to have a separate celebration and for her retirement party not to be included in the World AIDS Day event.
 - b. There was general discussion. The event will be on Thursday, December 1, 2022, from 5:00 to 7:00 pm in the atrium at the Spahr Center. Given the short time between now and December 1st, the event this year will be abbreviated. This will not be the Council's community event, which will be done in the spring of 2023. The event will consist of reading out the names of those who have passed. Attendees will be encouraged to share stories of their passed friends and loved ones, emphasizing what they did with their lives, their

culture, their interests. There will be an altar space with candles lit for each person who passed. There may be a speaker, but time is short for scheduling one. There were suggestions of window displays and a timeline of significant events. CM Bobby Moske volunteered to handle food. Council members will connect via email to finalize planning.

- XIV. Membership:** Lydia Arellano was up for Care Council membership renewal. A motion was made, seconded, and passed. Cicily Emerson reported that Fel Agrelius had applied to be a member of the Council. A motion was not required, so the Council agreed to accept her application. Cicily recommended that recruitment should be on the agenda for the January meeting.
- XV. Next Steps – New Business:** None.
- XVI. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:53 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 11, 2022, at 3:00 pm.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, January 11, 2022, 3:00 to 5:30 pm**
Location: 3240 Kerner, Room 110 and via Zoom