



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**

June 14, 2023

Marin County Health & Wellness Campus

Meeting conducted via Zoom and in person

3:00 – 5:30 pm

Benita McLarin, FACHE
DIRECTOR

Matthew Willis, MD, MPH
PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

Lisa M. Santora, MD, MPH
DEPUTY PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICER

3240 Kerner Boulevard
San Rafael, CA 94901
415 473 4163 T
415 473 6002 F
415 473 3232 TTY
marinhhs.org/public-health

I. Call to Order

CM Linda Dobra called the meeting to order at 3:03 pm.

II. Roll Call

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

Council Members Arriving Late: None.

Council Members Absent: James Frazier

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

Public Present: Connie Kadera (MCC); Maria Camacho, Emily Sims, Renato Talhadas, Joe Tuohy (Spahr Center), Kerin Stevens

III. Review and approval of Agenda – VOTE: CM Linda Dobra asked that members review the agenda and propose a motion to approve it. CM Julie Case so moved. CM Wade Flores seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Review and approval of Minutes – VOTE: CM Linda Dobra asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2023, HIV/AIDS Care Council meeting. CM Bobby Moske so moved. CM Julie Case seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. General Announcements: CM Linda Dobra asked for General Announcements:

- a. Elaine Flores thanked the SF Planning Council for providing the funds to support the Community Forum. The forum was well received by participants.
- b. Linda Dobra announced that June 28 is HIV Testing Day and to encourage folks to reach out to Public Health or their healthcare provider to get tested.

- VI. Public Comment:** None.
- VII. Prevention Program Report:** CM Linda Dobra reported the following:
 - a. They continue to work with the jail in the prevention department, offering opt out HCV testing.
 - b. They are working with an agency called Primary Health to do outreach in the community, both in Marin City and in the Canal, for home testing for HIV and STIs.
 - c. They met with the state yesterday regarding Hepatitis C regarding funding.
 - d. Monica Mazzini has joined the team so now there is one more person who can work on HIV and Hepatitis C counseling, working with Ritter Center and Marin County Jail.
 - e. A Hepatitis C dashboard has been created to support efforts to eradicate Hepatitis C in Marin County. Marin County has accomplished a lot in prevention, especially with the HCV program. We have conducted HCV outreach, media campaign, jail testing, and academic detailing to providers like MCC and MTC. The rate at which we moved ahead with the HCV funding is an example for other counties. We have had a comprehensive program and Dr. Willis's support: goal to treat 100 people for HCV and the creation of a Hepatitis C Dashboard with data to be accountable and reach our goals.
- VIII. Division of Public Health Report:** Cicily Emerson reported the following:
 - a. Regarding COVID, Marin County community levels are low. Wastewater testing results are stable. Attendees are encouraged to get their second bivalent booster if they haven't already done so. For the fall, she is anticipating receiving a new vaccine which will be a combination of COVID, seasonal flu vaccine. It will be commercialized.
 - b. She acknowledged the work of the media team, as shown by the Hepatitis C ads at bus shelters as part of the County's campaign.
 - c. HHS is working on getting accreditation over the next year.
 - d. CalAIM is coming down from the state which provides background / wrap-around services for people with MediCal.
 - e. She answered a few questions.
 - f. Nga Le reported that the amount given monthly via food cards to eligible Ryan White clients has been increased to \$80 from the RW funds with an additional \$20 from the Spahr Center, giving a total of \$100 per month to clients.
- IX. Oral Health Update:** Connie Kadera reported the following:
 - a. MCC Dental continues to see Ryan White patients at their 4th Street location. There is a shortage of staff that MCC is working to address.
 - b. Renovations continue at the 4th Street location. They will be open six days a week. In 2024, after the renovations are completed, 4th street will have 17 chairs and increased access.

- c. The new appointment software is not yet up and running. To make appointments, patients still have to go through the usual channels, i.e. the call center, etc.
- d. CM Bobby Moske reported that he was very satisfied with services received from Dr. O.

X. Presentation: Annual Client Satisfaction Survey Results for Ryan White FY 2022/2023 i.e. from March 1, 2022 to Feb. 28, 2023: Nga Le shared her screen and gave a PowerPoint presentation. The slides were sent to all Council members via email before the meeting. She reported the following:

- a. The survey was completely confidential and could be completed online via Survey Monkey or via hard copy. There are 259 Ryan White Clients. 154 surveys were mailed out in March and 74 surveys were returned which is a 48% response rate, 2% higher than last year. 20 surveys were completed online and 13 were completed in Spanish. For those clients who returned a survey, a \$20.00 gift card was provided as an incentive.
- b. Nga reviewed the demographics of the respondents who provided this information, 67 in all. The majority of respondents were male (69%), white (60%) and over 60 years of age (56%).
- c. Nga reviewed the 12 service categories, which are funded through Ryan White grant, Parts A and B, plus the satisfaction scores for each. Respondents indicated greatest satisfaction for Primary Card, Food Cards and Medical Case Management. They indicated least satisfaction for Support Groups, Oral Health Care and Mental Health Care.
- d. Nga reviewed the comments from respondents:
 - i. Oral Care, ten respondents listed (1) long wait times for appointments; (2) long wait times for treatment; (3) feeling unsafe receiving treatment in a mobile unit rather than an office; and (4) customer service needs improvement.
 - ii. Regarding the Food Pantry, 20 respondents listed a number of complaints, including expired foods, needing more fruits and vegetables, more options for diabetics and others.
 - iii. Regarding Food Cards, 8 respondents expressed appreciation for them.
 - iv. Regarding Case Management, 20 respondents expressed appreciation, but others complained about lack of respect, the need for a receptionist and other lacks.
 - v. Regarding Benefits Counseling, 11 respondents complained about long response times and unhelpful staff.
 - vi. Regarding Mental Health, 4 respondents reported that there were no therapists and a long wait list for counseling.
 - vii. Regarding the Psychosocial Support Groups, 2 respondents reported that the support group was more of a social group rather than one discussing HIV-related concerns. Also, a women's support group was requested.

- e. Nga reviewed how respondents reported their state of health and their top health concerns, which were (1) depression / anxiety; (2) fatigue; (3) chronic pain; (4) lack of money for daily living; (5) medication side effects.
- f. Nga reviewed how respondents listed the services in order of importance. Food cards were listed as the most important and transportation as the least.
- g. Nga then reviewed the feedback from the attendees at the Community Forum. Among the good services, the attendees listed the food cards, the food pantry and medical care. Among services that needed improvement, attendees listed dental services, the phone tree, and mental health services (no therapists).
- h. Nga answered questions from the Council members.

XI. Presentation: Epidemiological Data of HIV in Marin County:

Deborah Gallagher reported the following:

- a. Deborah reviewed the reporting system. Both providers and labs must report positive HIV lab results to the County's Public Health Department. The information is then entered into eHARS – the surveillance database of the California Department of Public Health – AIDS Office. From there, the information is passed on to the CDC.
- b. She then reported the total number of diagnosed cases in Marin County from 1981 to 2022, the numbers from San Quentin, the numbers from the County at large and the combined numbers.
- c. She reviewed the number of new cases in Marin County since 2013. On average, Marin has 16 new cases per year. She reported that the number of new cases has dropped by about 20% from the 2013-2017 five-year period to the 2018-2022 five year period. Transmission via male/male sexual contact increased while transmission via heterosexual contact decreased. She noted that nearly 20% of newly diagnosed cases are under 25 years of age. 47% of new cases are among Hispanics despite Hispanics comprising only 17% of Marin's population. 35% of new cases are among whites and 10% are among African-Americans. California as a whole has seen a 9.4% decrease in cases between 2017 and 2022.
- d. She reviewed Continuum of Care and the demographics of people living with HIV/AIDS in Marin. 85% of these people are male, 14% are female and 1% are transgender. 58% are 55 years of age and older. With regard to ethnicity, 59% are white, 27% are Hispanic and 7% are African-American.
- e. Looking to the future, Deborah reported that an HIV data dashboard will be on the HHS website in the next month or two. Also, a home testing pilot program with community partners will start up in latter part of 2023.
- f. Deborah then answered questions from the Council members.

XII. BREAK.

- XIII. Service Category Summary Sheets for Ryan White FY 2022/2023 - Presentation:** Nga Le shared her screen and gave a PowerPoint presentation which had been distributed to the Council members before the meeting.
 - a. She reviewed the summary sheet for each of the twelve services. Each summary sheet included the 2022/23 budget for that service, a description of the service, the target population, the number of clients served in FY 2022/23 and the amount of budgeted funds spent.
 - b. She then answered questions from the Council members.
- XIV. Membership:** Alexey Nizovskikh reported that the membership of four members of the Council were up for renewal. They were Linda Dobra, Bobby Moske, Julie Dowling and Wade Flores. He asked each of the four to make a short statement regarding why they want to continue to serve on the Council.
 - a. Each of the four members made a short statement. The Council members voted in favor of renewing the membership of all four by a show of hands.
 - b. Council members reviewed the membership application of Rosemary Lukholo and there was brief discussion. The Council voted in favor of going forward with Ms. Lukholo's application. Nga Le reminded the Council members of the process.
- XV. Next Steps – New Business:** None.
- XVI. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 pm. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 3:00 pm.

Next Meeting: **Wednesday, July 12, 2023, 3:00 to 5:30 pm**
 Location: 3240 Kerner, Room 110 and via Zoom