



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 10, 2024**

**Marin County Health & Wellness Campus, Room 110**

Meeting conducted via Zoom and in person

3:00 – 5:30 pm

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**I. Call to Order**

CM Linda Dobra called the meeting to order at 3:07 pm.

**II. Roll Call**

Council Members Present at Roll Call: Elaine Flores, Wade Flores, Linda Dobra, Alexey Nizovskikh, Julie Case, Lydia Arellano, Rosemary Lukholo, Bobby Moske, James Frazier, Julie Dowling

Council Members Arriving Late: None

Council Members Excused: Jimi Amos

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

Public Present: Emily Sims (Spahr Center), Maria Camacho (Spahr Center), Connie Kadera (MCC), Racquel Beltran (MCC), Leslie Leong (CDPH), Melissa Reyna (CDPH), Andrea Vazquez (CDPH), Rachel "Ray" McLean (CDPH)

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

CM Linda Dobra asked members to review and approve the draft agenda. The motion, seconded, and passed unanimously.

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

a. October 11, 2023, meeting minutes – CM Linda Dobra asked members to review the October 11, 2023, meeting minutes. The motion was made, seconded, and passed with one abstention.

**V. General Announcements:**

- a. CM Bobby Moske announced that the ROSM meeting is on Friday at 10am at the Multicultural Center of Marin.
- b. Wade Flores announced that he is getting married in September.

**VI. Public Comment:** None.

- VII. Oral Health Update:** Connie Kadera from Marin Community Clinics (MCC) wished everyone a happy new year and gave the following report:
- a. At the Fourth Street location, MCC still has one working suite with five dental chairs. Construction is still on-going, and the hope is that all will be complete by spring 2024. At that time there will be 17 chairs which means an overall additional 5 chairs available for patients. At this time, the other sites i.e. 3260 Kerner location or the Novato location are at capacity and the lines are long. If emergency appointments are needed, MCC has blocked out time for them and patients can be seen the same day. If Ryan White (RW) patients are told that there are no emergency appointments available, they are to contact the RW email / Connie Kadera and Racquel Beltran for assistance.
  - b. She then answered questions. CM Bobby Moske reported that there are no dental providers in Marin County who accept Medi-Cal when referrals are made. He asked about how this issue was being addressed. Connie Kadera stated that at present MCC does not have an answer to this problem. She outlined several strategies they are pursuing. There was some general discussion.

**VIII. Ryan White Services – Spahr Update:**

- a. Case managers are working on insurance renewals for ADAP and Medi-Cal.
- b. The staff is busy with moving and packing.
- c. Spahr will be providing a food card due to the food pantry being closed for the move to the new office. The food pantry will be open next week. Dominic was promoted to the Training Institute.
- d. The Latino Support Group continues to meet with 5-10 participants per group meeting. They are working on revitalizing the women’s group.
- e. EFA funds were available for December.

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

- a. HCV: Prevention had success in HCV testing in the jail last year and we met our goals of over 100 tests. Positives were followed up to get treatment from community providers once released. We’ve cleared all HCV positive follow up for 2023 from CalREDIE.
- b. HIV/PrEP: HHS is planning to send more bilingual staff to HIV testing training for state certification. Given the new case rates in the Spanish speaking community, HHS may utilize in-house staff to provide outreach and test kits.
- c. Long term prevention planning is underway internally and with external partners such as Spahr and Huckleberry Youth Services who also work in and with schools to get PrEP messaging out to the young, Latino community.
- d. Pilot project for STI community testing with Canal Alliance ended in December. MCCT continues the grant work for five months, based on the grant extension put in place. The community outreach workers

offered testing at events and via door-to-door and will continue to try various outreach methods for their communities.

- e. Cicily reported OA grant had a 5-month flat funding extension. CDC funds OA in 5-year cycles and we will potentially look at an additional 5-year cycle after July's extension.

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

- a. We are in flu season and the COVID virus, flu and RSV are spreading. Hospitalizations have gone up. She reviewed the fall vaccine and masking in public closed settings recommendations for people 60 and over and with compromised immune systems.
- b. Isolation guidelines have changed. Staying home for five days is no longer required. Individuals may return to work or school when they start to feel better, meaning that their symptoms are mild and improving, and they have not had a fever for a full day (24 hours) without the use of fever reducing medication. These changes are on the state website.
- c. Access to RSV vaccine is still somewhat problematic. Once again, it is not covered by all insurance plans, so attendees were urged to consult with their insurance plans about this.
- d. Marin County HHS has a new director. Her name is Dr. Lisa Warhuus. She previously served as the Director of Health, Housing, and Community Services for the City of Berkeley. She also worked for Alameda County Public Health. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from UC Berkeley, and a master's and doctoral degrees from Aarhus University in Denmark. The Board of Supervisors appointed her yesterday. Her first day of work will be February 20, 2024.
- e. She answered some questions and there was brief discussion.

**XI. World AIDS Day Commemoration Debrief:**

- a. The event was intimate and people shared personal stories.
- b. Feedback included inviting a journalist next year to cover the event, have the planning start earlier, and have more outreach and email blasts done by Spahr.
- c. The resolution was recognized at the Board of Supervisors meeting and can consider being added to the agenda next year.

**XII. Bylaws Change – VOTE:** Nga Le read out the revised bylaws concerning the term of office for the Co-Chairs. The term was changed from one year to two years. There was some brief discussion. The motion to accept the revised bylaw was made, seconded and passed unanimously.

**XIII. STD 340B Program – CDPH STD Control Branch:** Leslie Leong, MSW, STD Clinic 340B Coordinator in the CDPH STD Control Branch, shared

her screen and gave a PowerPoint presentation on the STD 340B Drug Pricing Program.

- a. Purpose: The rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) have increased significantly in recent years both in California and nationally. High drug prices both for PrEP and anti-syphilis drugs such as Bicillin impede access to preventative services and care. High drug prices heavily impact uninsured and underinsured patients and the programs and providers who serve them.
- b. Program Overview: The U.S. Public Health Service Act, Section 340B requires drug manufacturers participating in Medicaid to provide steep discount on outpatient drugs to eligible providers. This program is run by HRSA, Office of Pharmacy Affairs, with technical services provided by Apexus.
- c. Ryan White HIV/AIDS 304B Program (RWHAP): This program is authorized by Title 26 of the Public Health Services Act. It guarantees federal funding to provide treatment and other services to HIV/AIDS patients who are uninsured or underinsured. She listed the eligible RW programs. All patients eligible for and enrolled in an individual ADAP program are also eligible for treatment under RWHAP.
- d. Discounts: She then reviewed the discounts available for four of the most commonly prescribed medications, such as Azithromycin. The savings are significant.
- e. How Programs can Use 340B Savings: The savings can be used to hire more providers, purchase medications and medical supplies, and cover lab fees and testing costs.
- f. Flow of Program Eligibility from Federal to State to Local. She reviewed how funding is managed and authorized from the CDC through CDPH and then to local jurisdictions.
- g. Scope of Work and Clinic Eligibility: She reviewed the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) and the scope of work plus eligibility requirements for clinics. There is an emphasis on ability to test on-site for chlamydia, syphilis and gonorrhea.
- h. Patient Eligibility: She stated that patient eligibility has three parts (1) the patient already receives medical services from the covered entity; (2) the patient receives services from a provider employed by or contracted by the covered entity; and (3) the patient receives services from the covered entity consistent with those services covered by the grant.
- i. Duplicate Discount Prohibition: Covered entities are prohibited from receiving a 340B discount plus a Medicaid rebate for the same drug. Also, they must accurately report Medicaid fee-for-service drugs on the Medicaid Exclusion File.
- j. Requirements: Covered entities must register with the 340B office and keep their information up to date, complete an annual recertification, and maintain auditable records. She reviewed the penalties for non-compliance and the process for application. Finally, she provided a list of resources.

k. She then answered questions.

**BREAK:** The Council members took a five-minute break.

- XIV. Community Forum Planning:** CM Linda Dobra asked for member input about the community forum.
  - a. There was general discussion about topics and presenters.
  - b. A committee was appointed to plan the forum. The committee consists of Elaine Flores (Chair), James Frazier, Wade Flores, Bobby Moske, Julie Case, and Rosemary Lukholo. They will meet at 3pm on Wednesday, February 7, at 3240 Kerner Blvd, in Room 109, which Nga Le will reserve for this purpose. The projected date for the forum is June 5 or 6, 2024. Also, she will put together a flyer to publicize the event and send it out in March.
  
- XV. Membership:** Nga Le reviewed the meeting calendar for 2024. She asked the members if they wanted to keep the May meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> or move it to April 24. The membership decided to have the meeting on April 24. Nga Le will send out a revised meeting schedule for 2024 to all Council members.
  
- XVI. Next Steps – New Business:** None.
  
- XVII. Adjourn:** The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 pm.

**Next Meeting:**                    **Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 3:00 to 5:30 pm**  
   **Location: 3240 Kerner, Room 110 and via Zoom**