

**Healthcare-Associated Infections Advisory Committee
Meeting Summary
June 19, 2025
Video Conference**

Voting Members Present

Annemarie Flood, Carole Moss, Christina Ponce, Daniel Uslan, Deksha Taneja, Deborah Ellis, Dolly Greene, Ethan Smith, Michael Vollmer, Mindy Sampson, and Zachary Rubin (Chair)

Voting Members Absent

Ariana Longley, Benjamin Carter, Carolyn Caughell, Craig Uejo, Francesca Torriani, Jorge Salinas, Michele Lampshire, and Lael Duncan

Liaison Members Present

Liaison Members Absent

Howard Pitluck-QIN/HSAG, Louise McNitt-CPICD, Kathy Dennis-CAN, Trina Gonzalez-CHA, Michael Butera-CMA,

Center Staff Present

Chelsea Driscoll

Department Staff

Erin Epton, Juliet Stoltey, Andrea Parriott, Daniel Dodson, Idamae Kennedy, Jane Kriengkauykiat, Jessica Weber, Kay Royo, Kiya Komaiko, Lanette Corona, Maggie Turner, Mushfika Maknun, Monise Magro, Myesha Febres, Rebecca Czerny, Sangeetha Moorthy, Satya Keshav, Tracy Lanier, Tisha Mitsunaga, Valerie Sandles, Will Lyon,

Call to order, introductions, and review meeting requirements.

The chair, Zachary Rubin, called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

Item 1. Approve March 20, 2025 meeting summary

Meeting summary was approved.

Item 2. Provide CDPH HAI Program updates

CDPH HAI Program Funding Updates - The HAI Program chief discussed the CDPH HAI Program's roles and funding, noting that while state funding for some COVID-related grants was terminated, the main SHARP 2 award remains intact. She highlighted the recent termination of the Federal Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee (HICPAC) and the uncertainty surrounding the future CDC guidance, with CDPH already issuing interim guidance on respiratory viral infections. The discussion concluded with updates on *Candida auris*.

***Candida auris* Healthcare Transmission Update** – CDPH update on the health advisory regarding the ongoing transmission of *Candida auris* in healthcare facilities in Northern and Central California. CDPH highlighted the increase in case reports and the need for proactive screening in high-risk settings such as long-term acute care hospitals and ventilator-equipped skilled nursing facilities. Recommendations for acute care hospitals, including admission screening strategies for patients with known transmission or healthcare exposure were discussed. Clarified that skilled nursing facilities, in compliance with CMS requirements, can safely care for residents with MDROs like *Candida auris* without refusing admission based on enhanced barrier precautions.

Interfacility MDRO Communication Strategies - Interfacility communication strategies for MDRO prevention, highlighting CDPH and CDC recommendations including educational outreach, health alerts, and regional collaboratives. There are challenges with antimicrobial prescribing during transitions of care between hospitals and skilled nursing facilities, particularly regarding asymptomatic bacteria cases. It was shared that regional AR/MDRO prevention collaboratives have been working to improve communication protocols, including the use of standardized transfer forms to ensure better information sharing between facilities.

Interfacility Communication and MDRO Control - Presentation on interfacility communication challenges and the development of AR information exchanges, highlighting that while local and regional requirements have helped raise awareness, a state mandate may not be effective. It is noted that Los Angeles County's Patient Safety Information Exchange (PSIE) is an example of a promising initiative, though funding remains a challenge.

Item 3. Patient Safety Information Exchange from LA County

Guest speakers Kelsey Oyong and Eileen Wong from LA County detailed their efforts to combat MDROs through screening, testing, and interfacility communication, revealing that only about a quarter of patients had their MDRO status documented upon transfer, which led to the development of PSIE using CDC funding.

PSIE System Expansion Update - Kelsey presented the Patient Safety Information Exchange (PSIE) system, which provides rapid access to MDR (multi-drug resistant) patient status information for hospitals and skilled nursing facilities in Los Angeles County. The system allows facilities to search for patients by name and DOB and will soon include automated email alerts when patients with MDR histories are admitted. Eileen demonstrated the current search functionality and announced that the second release, scheduled for fall, will add automated notifications and expand to include data from Pasadena and Long Beach, with ongoing discussions to include other jurisdictions.

Patient Safety Information Exchange Launch - The meeting continued with a presentation about the Patient Safety Information Exchange (PSIE) system, which is now operational in phase one, allowing healthcare facility staff to check admissions against the system.

Item 4. CDPH perspective and discussion regarding statewide health information exchange efforts

Dr. Jessica Nunez de Ybarra from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) highlighted the need for data modernization and infrastructure improvements, noting that current funding cuts and federal guidance changes may impact public health services.

Discussion: Committee members suggested making PSIE patient data accessible to individuals, while confirming that many skilled nursing facilities already use electronic forms for interfacility transfers, which aligns with the PSIE system's goals.

Subcommittee Report(s)

Item 5. Antimicrobial Resistance/Stewardship Subcommittee – Ethan Smith, Chair

The committee discussed a motion calling on CDPH to support local health departments in developing scalable and interoperable MDRO tracking systems, with a focus on enhancing inter-facility transfer documentation and exploring integration with existing statewide databases and non-acute care systems. Ethan presented the motion, which was supported by committee members, who emphasized the importance of technology that doesn't increase workload for infection prevention staff. The committee was unable to vote on the motion due to a lack of quorum. Motion tabled until the next meeting.

Item 6. Public Report and Public Education Subcommittee – Carolyn Caughell, Chair (Not Present)

The subcommittee is waiting for directions from the HAI Committee for further actions.

New Business

Item 7. Discuss future meeting agenda items.

CMS requirements for fiscal year 2026 and public reporting regarding facility outbreak alerts were suggested subjects and discussion of the next Chair since Zach's term will be ending on the Advisory Committee in December.

The next Advisory Committee meeting is September 18, 2025, in person at the Richmond, CDPH district campus.

Meeting adjourned at 12:58 PM