Office of Health Equity (OHE) Advisory Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT Staff Notes)  
December 14, 2017

Sierra Health Foundation  
1321 Garden Highway  
Sacramento, CA 95833

OHE-AC Members Participating:  
Dalila Butler, MPH, Chair  
Rocco Cheng, PhD  
Alison Chopel, DrPH, MPH  
Sarah de Guia, JD  
Donnell Ewert, MPH  
Alvaro Garza, MD, MPH  
Virginia Hedrick, MPH (Yurok)  
Carrie Johnson, PhD  
Jo-Ann Julien, MEd  
Manel Kappagoda, JD, MPH  
Nahla Kayali  
Dexter Louie, MD, JD, MPA  
Yvette McShan  
Lloyd Nadal, MA  
Hermia Parks, MA, RN, PHN  
Linda Wheaton, MURP, AICP  
Michael Witte, MD

Members Absent:  
Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, MD, PhD  
Rye Baerg, MA-URP  
Lisa Folberg, MPP  
Guillermo Gonzalez, MPP  
Aaron Fox, MPM, Vice Chair  
Sandi Galvez, MSW  
Patricia Lee, PhD

State Officials/Staff:  
Jahmal Miller, Deputy Director, OHE  
Dante Allen, Senior Communications Officer, OHE  
Brittany Amanfor, Intern, OHE  
Marina Castillo-Augusto, Chief, Community Development and Engagement Unit (CDEU), OHE  
Noralee Cole, SSA, OHE  
Rafael Colonna, Research Scientist I, OHE  
Cullen Fowler-Riggs, LGBTQ Population Lead, OHE  
Carol Gomez, AGPA, OHE  
Solange Gould, DrPH, MPH, Chief, Health Equity Policy and Planning Unit, OHE  
Linda Helland, Health Program Specialist II, William Porter, MS, Health Program Climate Change and Health Equity Program, OHE  
Benjamin Hicks, Research Scientist I, OHE  
Laura Leonelli, Health Program Specialist I, CDEU, OHE  
Meredith Milet, Research Scientist III, OHE  
Frank Molina, Program Associate, OHE  
Dahir Nasser, Health Program Specialist I, HiAP, OHE  
Maureen Njmafa, CDEU, OHE  
Tamu Nolfo, PhD, Senior Project Manager, HiAP, OHE  
La Roux Pendleton, CRDP Lead, CDEU, OHE  
Abbigail Pereyra, Intern, OHE  
Peter Oh, PhD, Chief, Health Research and Statistics Unit (HRSU), OHE  
La Roux Pendleton, CRDP Lead, CDEU, OHE  
Abbigail Pereyra, Intern, OHE  
William Porter, MS, Health Program Climate Change and Health Equity Program, OHE  
Mallika Rajapaksa, PhD, Research Scientist IV, HRSU, OHE
Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee Meeting  
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT Staff Notes)  
December 14, 2017

Jason Vargo, Research Scientist IV, OHE

Speakers from the Public:

Monique Brown
Shirley Darling
Elberta Erickson (via teleconference)
Terrie Green

Ricardo Moncrief
JayVon Muhammad (via teleconference)
Amanda Wallner

AC Attendees in Person: Dalila Butler, MPH, Chair; Rocco Cheng, PhD; Alison Chopel, DrPH, MPH; Sarah de Guia, JD; Donnell Ewert, MPH; Alvaro Garza, MD, MPH; Virginia Hedrick, MPH (Yurok); Carrie Johnson, PhD; Jo-Ann Julien, MEd; Manel Kappagoda, JD, MPH; Nahla Kayali; Dexter Louie, MD, JD, MPA; Yvette McShan; Lloyd Nadal, MA; Hermia Parks, MA, RN, PHN; Linda Wheaton, MURP, AICP; Michael Witte, MD.

10:00 a.m. Convene Meeting and Welcome | Roll Call | Agenda Review | Meeting Minutes

Dalila Butler, MPH, Chair of the OHE Advisory Committee (AC), called the OHE-AC meeting to order, welcomed everyone, and asked OHE-AC members to introduce themselves. She provided a brief overview of the OHE-AC meeting agenda.

Chair Butler welcomed Sarah de Guia to the Advisory Committee and asked her to introduce herself.

Tamu Nolfo, PhD, Senior Project Manager, OHE, welcomed Virginia Hedrick to the Advisory Committee and upon her arrival from an earlier meeting, asked her to introduce herself.

Advisory Committee Member Report Outs

Chair Butler asked OHE-AC members to report on their work since the last meeting.

Manel Kappagoda, JD, MPH, summarized her meeting with Congressman Jared Huffman to discuss federal funding cuts for the National Health Service Corps and Federally Qualified Health Centers, and the impacts of immigration policy enforcement on health care.

Michael Witte, MD, stated Federally Qualified Health Centers will suffer huge budget losses if grants are not extended in the early part of next year.

Jo-Ann Julien, MEd, summarized the Creative Forces Summit held earlier this month in San Diego.

September 28, 2017, Meeting Minutes

Hermia Parks, MA, RN, PHN, referred to the second bullet under Outreach on page 7 and asked to change “door-to-door” to “home visitation programs.”

The meeting minutes were approved with OHE-AC members Cheng, Chopel, de Guia, and Nadal abstaining.
Public Comment
No members of the public addressed the OHE-AC.

10:30 a.m. Learnings and Recommendations from Marin City

Presenters:
Jo-Ann Julien, MEd, OHE Advisory Committee Member
Michael Witte, MD, OHE Advisory Committee Member

Ms. Julien reviewed the two Prep Work Activity Sheets, which were sent previously to OHE-AC members and were included in the meeting packet, and asked OHE-AC members to share something that stood out to them from the Marin City meeting.

- Dr. Witte – A history of racism drove how Marin City originally was formed
  - Marin City is intentionally moving itself away from that history
- Ms. Parks – The disparities that exist in Marin City
  - Strong advocacy, organization for justice, and a desire to be at the table to make a difference in the community exists in Marin City
- Ms. Parks – A gap in the discussion was the senior population
  - Ms. Parks connected with the director and health officer for Marin City to discuss the Stanford Chronic Disease Management Model and offered to train the community to implement the model.
- Donnell Ewert, MPH – The impact of structural and institutional racism – the legacy of the racist policies of the past
  - Marin City has community pride and empowerment and advocates for greater equality, justice, and opportunity
- Yvette McShan – Marin City residents work together as a community of advocates and educate the African American community about mental health, stability, and self-sufficiency.
- Dexter Louie, MD, JD, MPA – Marin City residents are action-oriented and look after themselves. They identify needs in the community and work to solve them together.

Ms. Julien asked OHE-AC members to identify potential actions or efforts that could be taken to advance health equity for Marin City.

- Carrie Johnson, PhD – Secure support for the community action plan, bring back the community’s cultural identity, and incorporate different ways of healing such as art
- Alvaro Garza, MD, MPH – Translate hyper-local community focus to the state level, OHE staff tour and hold meetings in communities throughout the state, particularly in the San Joaquin Valley area, and community issues and solutions for economic stability presented at the meeting are also true for other
communities and populations throughout the state, such as strengthening statewide Workforce Investment Act policies

- Ms. Kappagoda – Supporting entrepreneurs in communities like Marin City is a public health investment
- Chair Butler – OHE and state agencies working in partnership directly with communities and advocates to support local solutions with statewide funds and resources
- Dr. Witte – Develop strong and engaged community leadership in communities like Marin City

Dr. Louie asked Dr. Nolfo how she felt about the meeting in Marin City and about her future plans. Dr. Nolfo stated she was delighted that the idea to spotlight the Marin City community manifested and OHE-AC members connected the community to resources. She hoped this Committee would continue to share resources, policies, and practices with the community.

Chair Butler asked OHE-AC members to give their Work Activity Sheets to staff. (Comments and suggestions listed on the Work Activity Sheets are included at the end of these minutes.)

Public Comment

Amanda Wallner, Health Access, Director, LGBT Health and Human Services Network, stated there is value in providing venues, such as the meeting in Marin City, where community members have the opportunity to make their voices heard at the state level. She agreed with finding ways to support community-based solutions and to strengthen that work to build sustainability.

Terrie Green, Director, Marin City Family Resources and Youth Development Center, stated early childhood education is the key. She stated locating additional resources to support early childhood education is important. Marin City has a Superfund site. She asked for help to identify contacts for soil, water, and air testing.

Ms. Green, representing the Golden Gate Village Resident Council, stated Golden Gate Village has state historic preservation status and recently was awarded the national preservation status. She stated Golden Gate Village is the only public housing facility in the nation that was awarded this status. She asked for help in working with Congressman Huffman to secure funding for renovations.

Ricardo Moncrief, ISOJI, stated Marin City has aligned with OHE’s priorities and added environment justice and infrastructure as priorities.

Monique Brown, General Manager, Marin City Community Services District, asked OHE to continue to advance policies to support the Marin City community.

JayVon Muhammad, Chief Executive Officer, Marin City Health and Wellness Center, reminded everyone that her presentation at the last meeting was about gentrification being a public health issue and public health crisis. She asked for work at the state and
federal levels to protect African American communities and other communities to restore health.

Elberta Erickson, Marin City resident, appreciated that the OHE-AC recognized that the Marin City community is using its cultural roots as a method to build the community.

11:20 a.m. Look Back, Look Ahead: Successes and Opportunities on the Issues of Housing, Immigration, and Rural Health and Mental Health Equity

**Presenters:**
- Linda Wheaton, MURP, AICP, OHE Advisory Committee Member
- Donnell Ewert, MPH, OHE Advisory Committee Member
- Tamu Nolfo, PhD, OHE Sr. Project Manager
- Dalilla Butler, MPH, OHE Advisory Committee Chair

**Housing**

Ms. Kappagoda briefly summarized the history leading up to the drafting of the comment letter the OHE submitted in March to the Director of the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). She stated the letter covers policies that address substandard housing, the impact of housing on health and health care costs, and housing and access needs for vulnerable populations.

Linda Wheaton, MURP, AICP, stated the HCD website has a link to the 15-bill 2017 Legislative Housing Package, enacted during this legislative session. Although an improvement, Ms. Wheaton stated the housing package is not adequate to fully address the housing crisis in California. She briefly summarized the contents of the housing package.

**Rural Health and Mental Health**

Dr. Nolfo provided an overview, accompanied by a slide presentation, of the recent staff visit to Redding, hosted by Mr. Ewert, Director, Shasta County Health and Human Services Agency, and his staff. Dr. Nolfo stated OHE staff visited rural Northern California to do site visits, hold a stakeholder forum, and speak with individuals to learn about activities, health equity challenges, and the local perspectives and understanding, similar to the Marin City visit in September. She reviewed a summary of the comments received during the stakeholder forum done by Mr. Ewert’s staff.

Mr. Ewert thanked OHE staff for visiting Shasta County to learn about health equity challenges in rural areas of California. He stated a positive outcome of the OHE visit is that, when the McConnell Foundation learned about it, they contacted him and asked for the same tour.

Mr. Ewert provided an overview, accompanied by a slide presentation, of the social determinants of health in Shasta County. He stated rural America struggles with poorer outcomes than the general population, such as higher infant mortality, lower life expectancy, higher tobacco, alcohol, and other drug-related deaths, higher ACEs scores, higher suicide rates, lower educational attainment, lower median income, and higher unemployment.
Mr. Ewert stated mobile homes are the low-income housing in rural communities. The McConnell Foundation asked Mr. Ewert for a tour because they are planning to build housing downtown to increase the number of individuals who live downtown in an effort to improve safety and create more economic vitality in the downtown area during the evenings.

Immigration

Ms. Kappagoda briefly summarized the history leading up to the drafting of the literature review and extensive state-level review of the OHE Immigration Issue Brief, which was included in the meeting packet. She noted that footnote 29 in the brief cites a paper by Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, MD, PhD, an OHE-AC member.

Dr. Nolfo noted one of the things changed during the state-level review is on the third page just before the acknowledgements section, where it directs the reader to contact the OHE instead of listing several resources directly on the brief as it was originally. She stated the Immigration Issue Brief is an OHE document. She invited the OHE-AC to endorse it if they would like to.

Roundtable Discussion

Ms. Parks asked about the ethnic breakdown of Shasta County. Mr. Ewert gave her that information.

Dr. Johnson asked about a breakdown of data on the different racial groups. Mr. Ewert stated some data is broken down but Shasta County is so small that often the data is lumped together, particularly for Asians and African Americans.

Dr. Garza suggested a dialogue with the infectious disease agencies in the state about improving the housing for the homeless in order to address hepatitis A upstream, particularly in San Diego, Los Angeles, and Santa Cruz. He suggested providing toilet and hand washing facilities for the homeless.

Donnell suggested pulling the rural parts of California out of the regions with urban areas so rural counties do not have to compete with larger urban counties for housing grants.

Ms. Wheaton asked about the highest level of review the issue brief received. Dr. Nolfo stated it went up to the governor’s office.

Dr. Louie referred to paragraph 2 on page 1. He stated enforcement seems to be the key word in that sentence, but later the brief talks about changes in policy. He asked if the brief is about enforcement or the policy. Ms. Kappagoda stated the title is not fully descriptive of the content of the brief; it was changed during the state-level review process. She stated the brief is broader than how policy is enforced.

Dr. Louie stated the title misstates the issue. Ms. Kappagoda stated the biggest impact is made when policies are enforced. She agreed that the title is not perfect but suggested getting the document out there. It will be a useful tool for advocates.

Dr. Garza asked if the OHE will monitor the use of the issue brief, specifically by policy makers, and bring reports to the OHE-AC. Deputy Director Miller stated staff will do
simple tracking and monitoring and maybe create a toolkit with a slide deck endorsed by the OHE. Dr. Nolfo stated staff sent the issue brief to legislators just yesterday who were asking for information on refugee health.

Dr. Garza moved that the Advisory Committee endorse the Immigration Issue Brief.

**Vote**

The Immigration Issue Brief was endorsed by the Advisory Committee with OHE-AC member Louie voting “no” and OHE-AC member Hedrick abstaining.

**Public Comment**

Mr. Moncrief asked to put land ownership, land trusts, and affordable housing on a future agenda.

---

**1:00 p.m. The Office of Health Equity: Celebrating 5 Years and Preparing for the Next Chapter**

**Presenters:**
- Jahmal Miller, MHA, OHE Deputy Director
- Tamu Nolfo, PhD, OHE Sr. Project Manager
- Peter Oh, PhD, Chief, OHE Health Research and Statistics Unit
- Marina Castillo-Augusto, Chief, Community Development and Engagement Unit
- Solange Gould, PhD, Chief, Health Equity Policy and Planning Unit

**Presentation**

Dr. Nolfo briefly summarized how the OHE was created, the original vision, individuals and organizations who were instrumental in helping the OHE get its start, and major accomplishments of the OHE. She stated the need to discuss the original vision, if that vision still holds today or if it should be revised, and how to continue the momentum and build sustainability. She shared that her contract with the OHE will soon expire.

Deputy Director Miller thanked stakeholders and staff who helped the OHE get where it is today. He highlighted the importance of sustainability, community-based power, and getting back to the root principles and practices of the OHE to propel it to the next cycle. He shared a personal story as a reminder that the issues of homelessness, mental illness, and other disparities and inequities that affect lives and communities are only a step away.

Peter Oh, PhD, Chief, OHE Health Research and Statistics Unit (HRSU), provided an overview, accompanied by a slide presentation, of the 2017 accomplishments and 2018 goals of his unit related to the legislatively-mandated Demographic Report on Health and Mental Health Equity in California. He stated Dulce Bustamante-Zamora has taken another position and will be greatly missed. He asked OHE-AC members to send him contact information for research scientists who may be interested in filling the open position.

Marina Castillo-Augusto, Chief, Community Development and Engagement Unit (CDEU), provided an overview, accompanied by a slide presentation, of the 2017
accomplishments and 2018 goals of her unit. She stated one of the largest gap areas in the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) is tribal engagement. She stated she is looking forward to site visits and engaging with Native American communities this upcoming year.

Solange Gould, PhD, Chief, Health Equity Policy and Planning Unit, provided an overview, accompanied by a slide presentation, of the 2017 accomplishments and 2018 goals of her unit. She stated one of the things her unit found was most impactful is to direct funding resources to integrate health equity language into the flow of money disbursed statewide. She stated a large shift in her unit’s process is to continue to provide health and equity subject matter expertise and consultation to state agencies and departments and local health departments working on climate change by teaching them how to do it instead of doing it for them. The unit plans to create a library of best practices and ideal language for integrating health and equity criteria and metrics into grants, plans, and guidelines.

Roundtable Discussion

Ms. Julien asked Dr. Oh about data sources specific to refugee populations. Dr. Oh referred her to the CDPH Office of Refugee Health, the primary agency responsible for collecting data on post-arrival refugee health screening.

Nahla Kayali, OHE-AC member, stated her organization has contracted with the health care agency in Orange County through the state to do the health assessments for refugees. She stated her organization has gathered refugee data but cannot use the information because it belongs to the government. She suggested that Dr. Oh add that population so HRSU can pull that report.

Ms. Julien stated the importance of learning not only how refugees are doing when they arrive, but how they are doing as they continue on their journey to becoming U.S. citizens.

Public Comment

No members of the public addressed the OHE-AC.

2:30 p.m. Break and Celebration of Retiring OHE Advisory Committee Member Álvaro Garza, MD, MPH

Dr. Nolfo stated Dr. Garza is retiring from the OHE-AC and will be greatly missed. She asked him to recite one of his poems for OHE-AC members.

Dr. Garza stated he writes quarterly articles for the Physician Magazine for the San Joaquin Medical Society. He shared copies of his most recent article, *From Health Tips for Patients to Wellbeing Equity Tips for Policy Makers*, with OHE-AC members.

Dr. Garza recommended *Perspectives of Health Equity and the Social Determinants of Health*, a document just put out by the National Academy of Medicine.

Dr. Garza stated he submitted three poems to the National Academy of Medicine initiative to visualize health equity. They were accepted and are posted on their website.
He recited his poem titled *Tri-Bi in the “Land of Opportunity,”* subtitled *The Bi-lingual, Bi-cultural, Bi-national Demand Equity in all Policies.*

Dr. Nolfo presented Dr. Garza with a certificate of appreciation for his years of service.

Deputy Director Miller stated he greatly appreciated Dr. Garza’s contributions and stated he still has a great deal to contribute to the advancement of equity in the state. He stated he hoped to continue to work collaboratively with Dr. Garza in the future.

2:50 p.m. Setting the OHE Advisory Committee Agenda for 2018

Chair Butler asked OHE-AC members to consider what they learned over the last year in order to prioritize goals for the agenda for 2018.

Roundtable Discussion

Dr. Garza suggested that the OHE or the California Research Bureau keep an inventory of the equity-related activities of the 22 state departments. He also suggested that OHE-AC members invite legislators who have an interest in equity issues to speak at future OHE-AC meetings about topics such as the courts, housing, or transportation.

Chair Butler agreed that creating a dashboard to record contacts with other departments and inviting legislators to discuss how their work connects to health equity would be helpful.

Dr. Johnson suggested a presentation on urban, rural, and tribal Native Americans at a future meeting.

Dr. Cheng asked who will support the OHE-AC if Dr. Nolfo’s contract is not extended, what will happen to the OHE when the CRDP funding stream stops, about the lessons learned, and how to push forward the Strategic Plan for the CRDP Phase I, which completed its work two years ago. He stated it is awkward that the CRDP Phase II has launched prior to the creation of the Strategic Plan for Phase I.

Dr. Nolfo stated there may be gap funds, General Fund, private partner collaborations, or additional MHSA funding for her and Dante Allen’s positions.

Ms. Castillo-Augusto stated the CRDP Strategic Plan is in the third round of vetting with department heads. If no responses are received, a Secretary Action Report will be resubmitted to Agency for approval.

Alison Chopel, DrPH, MPH, suggested health inequity issues that impact youth, specifically in adolescence. She asked Dr. Gould if there is a preliminary assessment of the impact that the changes in grant language made and if the funding was spent differently. Dr. Gould stated grant recipients are just now receiving their funding awards and they are for long-range investments in infrastructure development.

Mr. Ewert suggested inviting speakers to discuss bills that have passed and pending bills.

Ms. De Guia suggested learning about the OHE budget and funding sources to better assess and understand gaps. She stated it is important to set five-year goals to elevate
the discussion with funders and departments. She suggested a presentation on the role of the Advisory Committee for the sustainability and future of the OHE. She also suggested forming a working group to think about the budget and policy issue priorities. Ms. Julien agreed and suggested choosing three bold goals for 2018.

Ms. Parks stated the opportunity to partner with many organizations is now. As Public Health 3.0 moves forward, many agencies and departments will begin to look to the OHE for guidance and assistance. This is a way to increase funding into the OHE and engage with partners at the local level.

Public Comment

Shirley Darling spoke in favor of peace and justice.

3:50 p.m. Debrief | Public Comment Period/Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Dr. Louie stated he attended a meeting of the Network of Ethic Physicians and the California Medical Association recently. He described posters submitted by medical students and stated medical students are doing well and understand social justice.

Dr. Nolfo stated a recent CRDP think tank met to discuss collecting and portraying LGBTQ data in the Portrait of Promise. She asked OHE-AC members to send ideas for data sources to staff. She also asked OHE-AC members to email staff if they are interested in being a part of future think tanks for the other CRDP population groups.

Chair Butler stated the Williams Institute at UCLA has LGBTQ data.

Lloyd Nadal, OHE-AC member, stated he represented the OHE at a conference recently where one of the members of the panel was doing health equity work in Seattle through the Office of Public Affairs. He stated the importance of ensuring that individuals and organizations beyond public health circles learn that the CDPH and the OHE exist.

Chair Butler summarized OHE-AC member discussion:

- Sustainability is a concern and an area of opportunity
  - Continued conversation around sustainability will be especially important
- Ways to better connect and to help facilitate conversations and action
- Future agenda items on Native Americans, youth, and how to continue to engage other departments

Ms. de Guia made a motion to create a subcommittee to drill deeper and come up with three to five priority goals to set as the OHE-AC agenda for 2018 and to propose those goals at the February meeting.

Dr. Louie cautioned that the text of the Strategic Plan cannot be changed. He suggested a future agenda where OHE-AC members can break up into groups to work on parts of the Strategic Plan to identify gaps.
Vote
The OHE-AC approved creating a subcommittee to come up with three to five priority goals to set as the OHE-AC agenda for 2018 and to propose those goals at the February meeting, with OHE-AC members Parks and Louie voting “no” and OHE-AC members Garza and McShan abstaining.

OHE-AC Chair Butler and OHE-AC members de Guia and Julien volunteered to be a part of the subcommittee.

4:00 p.m. Closing Comments and Adjournment
Chair Butler thanked everyone for participating and ended the proceeding at 4:09 p.m.
Dr. Garza played La Bamba Rebelbe for OHE-AC members.

Comments and suggestions submitted for Prep Work Activity Sheet #1

Conclusion #1
Surprised of the vast disparities within Marin City and Marin County. Great experience to go out into the community and hear firsthand their concerns.

Conclusion #2
The strong advocacy and organization that exist for justice.

Conclusion #3
Important for the community to have a say in decision-making, resulting in empowering the community.

Key Questions
The issue of chronic disease/diabetes was not addressed. There is a growing number of adults and seniors with chronic disease. I have made contact with the nursing director and the health officer and proposed implementing the evidence-based Chronic Disease Self-Management Program. I have implemented this model and have staff that can be available to assist. This lay-person community-based model will allow leaders in Marin City to educate and empower their community with addressing chronic disease and ways to self-manage their conditions.

Comments and suggestions submitted for Prep Work Activity Sheet #2

5. Training
Provide training on the evidence-based Stanford Chronic and Diabetes Self-Management Program. Connected and shared information how I can assist with implementing this model in Marin City.

9. Early Childhood Development
Attendance at First 5 Commission meetings. This will assist with awareness and opportunities for possible funding for 0-5 years.