

**Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT Staff Notes)
May 15, 2019**

Hugh Burns State Building
2550 Mariposa Mall, Room 1004
Fresno, CA 93721

Additional Public Locations

Shasta County Health & Human Services Agency
Marta McKenzie Conference Room
2615 Breslauer Way
Redding, CA 96001

800-230-1074; Code 467245

OHE-AC Members Participating:

Sarah de Guia, JD, Co-Chair	Carrie Johnson, PhD
Manel Kappagoda, JD, MPH, Co-Chair	Simran Kaur
Kismet Baldwin, MD	Yvette McShan
Virginia Hedrick, MPH	Hermia Parks, MA, RN, PHN

Members Absent:

Rocco Cheng, PhD	Jo-Ann Julien, BA, MEd
Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, MD, PhD	Nahla Kayali
Rye Baerg, MA-URP	Patricia Lee, PhD
Rocco Cheng, PhD	Dexter Louie, MD, JD, MPA
Donnell Ewert, MPH	Lloyd Nadal
Lisa Folberg, MPP	Ana Gonzalez Seda, MPH
Aaron Fox, MPM	Angelo Williams, MD
Sandi Galvez, MSW (via teleconference)	Michael Witte, MD
Guillermo Gonzalez, MPP	

State Officials/Staff:

Susan Fanelli, CDPH Chief Deputy Director	Solange Gould, DrPH, MPH, Chief, Health Equity Policy and Planning Unit, OHE
Dana Moore, OHE Assistant Deputy Director/Acting Deputy Director	Peter Oh, PhD, Chief, Health Research and Statistics Unit (HRSU), OHE
Noralee Cole, SSA, OHE	La Roux Pendleton, CRDP Lead, CDEU, OHE
Carol Gomez, AGPA, OHE	

Speakers from the Public:

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Keith Bergthold	Amanda McAllister-Wallner
Kate Bourne	Vong Mouanoutoua
Susana De Anda	Tamu Nolfo, PhD (via teleconference)
Juan Garcia, PhD	Artie Padilla
Juan Gonzalez, PhD	Joe Prado
Yang Hurr	Cindy Quezada, PhD
Genoveva Islas, MPH	Yolanda Randles, MPH
Sheila James	Valeria Rodriguez-Pedroza
Stephanie Koch-Kumar, PhD, MPH	Yesenia Silva-Aguilar
Steve Leoni	Melanie Vang
Nayamin Martinez, MPH	Ghia Xiong, PsyD
Jesus Martinez, PhD	Wendy Xiong
Leslie Martinez	Valerie Yerger, ND (via teleconference)

AC Attendees in Person: Sarah de Guia, JD, Co-Chair; Manel Kappagoda, JD, MPH, Co-Chair; Kismet Baldwin, MD, Virginia Hedrick, MPH; Carrie Johnson, PhD; Simran Kaur; Yvette McShan; Hermia Parks, MA, RN, PHN, Jo-Ann Julien, MEd

9:00 a.m. Convene Meeting and Welcome | Roll Call | Agenda Review

Welcome and Introductions

Dana Moore, Office of Health Equity (OHE) Assistant Deputy Director/Acting Deputy Director, called the OHE Advisory Committee (AC) to order at approximately 9:00 a.m., welcomed everyone, and asked the OHE-AC members to introduce themselves. She provided a brief overview of the OHE-AC meeting agenda.

Simran Kaur, MPH, welcomed everyone to the Central Valley.

Susan Fanelli, Chief Deputy Director, Policy and Programs, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), provided an operations and administration update.

STATE-COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNITY BEST PRACTICES AND LISTENING SESSION

Presenter:

Dana Moore, MPH, CPH, OHE Assistant Deputy Director/Acting Deputy Director

Ms. Moore stated the purpose of the following panel series is to provide an opportunity for community members and partners to share best practices and promising practices that address the built environment, social determinants of health, and community resilience and raise awareness of work being done in the OHE and how it connects to or supports community work and best practices.

9:15 a.m. Social Determinants of Health

Presenters:

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- Solange Gould, DrPH, MPH, Chief, OHE Health Equity Policy and Planning Unit
- Education: Genoveva Islas, *Cultiva La Salud*
- Immigration: Jesus Martinez and Cindy Quezada, CVIIC
- Food Insecurity: Keith Bergthold, Food to Share, Executive Director of Fresno Metro Ministry

Solange Gould, DrPH, MPH, Chief, OHE Health Equity Policy and Planning Unit, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation 2019 county health rankings, health outcomes and factors for counties, public participation to increase the impact, and what community organizers can bring to the table.

Genoveva Islas, MPH, Founder and Director, *Cultiva La Salud*, continued the slide presentation and discussed rural social determinants of health, building health equity, local food procurement advantages and disadvantages, and initial steps to local procurement. She stated local procurement not only changes the food environment, it helps advance health equity.

Jesus Martinez, PhD, and Cindy Quezada, PhD, Central Valley Immigrant Integration Collaborative (CVIIC), continued the slide presentation and discussed California's undocumented population, professions by immigration status, the proposed public charge rule, and achieving health equity for immigrant communities in the San Joaquin Valley.

Keith Bergthold, Executive Director, Fresno Metro Ministry, Food to Share, continued the slide presentation and discussed the historical growth and concentration of poverty in Fresno, connection and advocacy for healthy food supply and access, healthy food recovery, and community gardens and urban farms.

Public Comment

Kate Bourne, Health Education Specialist, Tulare County Health and Human Services Agency, shared the difficulties of capacity-building in the San Joaquin Valley due to the lack of four-year universities and shortage of college-educated professionals. She stated the need to have the workforce and tools in place to continue the work on health equity. She asked for support from the state.

Valerie Yerger, ND, Associate Professor, University of California at San Francisco; Project Director for The Loop; and Founding Member of the African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council, asked if the role of stress and cortisol secretion will be part of this discussion.

Sarah de Guia, Co-Chair of the OHE-AC, stated the agenda item on community residence later today will include a discussion on how to use the strengths of communities to address mental health need.

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Yesenia Silva-Aguilar, Research Assistant, Central Valley Health Policy Institute, stated the importance of including the impacts of oral health in the discussion on equity and the social determinants of health.

Steve Leoni, consumer and advocate, stated oftentimes, directives that are meant to help fall short. It is important to look at the extreme low end of the poverty spectrum, which not only includes homeless individuals but individuals struggling to hang on. The speaker used the example of the directive that provided \$5.00 coupons at Subway to encourage healthy eating. Poor individuals with only a tiny amount of dollars to spend, who would like to eat more than the one low-calorie sandwich that the \$5.00 could buy at a Subway, would rather that directive be for McDonalds, where that \$5.00 could be stretched farther, if they chose well. Also, not everyone has a freezer or a way to prepare food and can only take home enough food to eat in a day.

Leslie Martinez, Policy Advocate, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability, stated the San Joaquin Valley is unique in that it has unincorporated communities, which makes it harder for residents to receive services. The speaker noted that all the disparities in the San Joaquin Valley intersect. They are all important and need to be addressed.

Discussion

Yvette McShan stated the need to look at the stigma involved in food distribution. It creates a barrier to services.

10:30 a.m. Built Environment and Environmental Justice

Presenters:

- Peter Oh, DrPH, MPH, Chief, OHE Health Research and Statistics Unit
- Health Priority Index – Joe Prado, Community Health Division Manager; Stephanie Koch-Kumar, PhD, MPH, Senior Epidemiologist, Fresno County Department of Public Health
- Environmental justice: Nayamin Martinez, Director, Central California Environmental Justice Network
- Environmental justice: Leslie Martinez, Policy Advocate, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability
- Access to Water: Susana De Anda, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Community Water Center

Peter Oh, MPH, DrPH, Chief, OHE Health Research and Statistics Unit, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the OHE data products that inform the built environment and environmental justice work.

Joe Prado, Community Health Division Manager, and Stephanie Koch-Kumar, PhD, MPH, Senior Epidemiologist, Fresno County Department of Public Health, continued the

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slide presentation and discussed the Health Priority Index, network of multi-sector partners, and health outcomes and indicators.

Nayamin Martinez, MPH, Director, Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN), continued the slide presentation and discussed transforming communities affected by pollution in Fresno and the San Joaquin Valley, main sources of pollution, fixing problems through advocacy, and the Identifying Violations Affecting Neighborhoods (IVAN) Reporting Network.

Leslie Martinez, Policy Advocate, Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability (LCJA), continued the slide presentation and discussed the background and mission of the LCJA. She shared stories of concerned citizens and the power of a community-driven process in Southwest Fresno, which has resulted in securing funding to address the community's needs, advocating for a community solar project, and removing toxins from the water.

Susana De Anda, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Community Water Center (CWC), spoke about the water quality in the Central Valley and stated the CWC is a catalyst for community-driven water solutions through organizing, education, and advocacy in California. She stated the CWC hopes to pass the Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fund to ensure that there is a reliable source of funding available for systems to tap into to have adequate operation and maintenance to provide safe drinking water. She stated the importance of always including impacted residents at the table. This is the only way to solve problems and find the right solutions for each community.

Discussion

Co-Chair de Guia stated the theme heard today was about including community around the table and shifting the power dynamics.

Kismet Baldwin, MD, stated it is important not only to shift the power dynamics within individual counties but throughout the state. San Joaquin Valley must be at the table; quite often it is left out at the state and national levels.

Manel Kappagoda, JD, MPH, Co-Chair, OHE-AC, asked the panel how they are working with the local public health departments and what that partnership looks like from a public health lens.

Stephanie Koch-Kumar, PhD, MPH, Senior Epidemiologist, Fresno County Department of Public Health, stated the public health departments in Fresno, Tulare, and Kern Counties have been collaborating on the health impacts and environmental problems in their communities.

Leslie Martinez stated the LCJA finds allies in the local health departments to improve the health in unincorporated communities. She stated health departments in the San Joaquin Valley are typically underfunded and do not always have time to meet with the LCJA.

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Mr. Prado stated the Fresno County Department of Public Health has worked with the LCJA on the Health Priority Index and is currently working with them on a Wastewater Health Impacts Assessment for unincorporated communities.

Dr. Koch-Kumar suggested the website HealthFresnoCounty.org, a data dashboard containing statistics with county-level data by ZIP Code and census truck.

Virginia Hedrick, MPH, acknowledged that the San Joaquin Valley is the land of the Yokut people, who were pushed out of the valley into the mountains to what seemed to be uninhabitable lands. She encouraged the individuals and organizations doing this work in the San Joaquin Valley to be inclusive of the Indian community in this area and to include the work of the Urban Indian Health Program. She noted that Indian people are not as visible because they are often included in other minority groups.

Ms. McShan stated her concern that grant funding was not awarded to the west side where she grew up. She stated the only people that she saw today that looked like her were homeless. She stated, when she left the Valley, there were no homeless individuals because families would not let their family members be homeless. She asked why there were no people who looked like her left on the west side.

AC Co-Chair de Guia stated clean air, clean water, and safe homes should all be basic human rights, yet so many communities are struggling in the San Joaquin Valley and have to police the polluters instead of having the regulators police the polluters. She agreed with the need to include oral health in the discussion.

AC Co-Chair de Guia thanked the panel members. It was helpful to hear the different perspectives and to learn how the OHE-AC can be a partner and think about the issues from a state policy perspective, how to remove barriers, shift the policy dynamics, and change who is at the table.

Public Comment

Steve Leoni stated the need to address the housing issue, the need for both more affordable housing and better-quality safe housing on the lower end. It is important to increase awareness and to begin locating resources and making partnerships to find solutions.

Steve Leoni encouraged the Committee to record its meetings. Even putting only the presentations on a podcast would expand the reach outside of the individuals in attendance.

Amanda McAllister-Wallner, Director, CA LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network, Health Access California, stated fundamental needs such as access to safe drinking water are important and something the state should be working toward, along with access to health care and life-saving drugs. The issue is there is strong and well-funded opposition to all of these things. The speaker offered to work with OHE-AC members to think about the things everyone agrees on and the barriers to making them a reality.

12:00 p.m. Community Resilience

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- La Roux Pendleton, MPH, Lead, California Reducing Disparities Project, Community Development & Engagement
- Ghia Xiong, PsyD., Program Director, Melanie Vang, Project Coordinator, and Wendy Xiong, Project Assistant, The Fresno Center, California Reducing Disparities Project
- Juan C. Garcia, PhD, LMFT, President and CEO, Integral Community Solutions Institute/Professor Emeritus, California State University, Fresno, and Juan Carlos Gonzalez, PhD, Associate Professor, California State University, Fresno
- Artie Padilla, Executive Director, Every Neighborhood Partnership and Chair of the Fresno County Trauma and Resilience Group

La Roux Pendleton, MPH, Lead, California Reducing Disparities Project, Community Development and Engagement Unit, provided an overview of the background of the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP). She stated three of the thirty-five pilot projects funded by the CRDP are in Fresno. Representatives from those three projects are part of today's panel. She stated community resilience is defined as the sustainability of a community to utilize available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations. The panel will be sharing unique and innovative ways that community resiliency can be built and, hopefully, sustained.

Ghia Xiong, PsyD, Program Director, Melanie Vang, Project Coordinator, and Wendy Xiong, Project Assistant, The Fresno Center, CRDP, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the community defined evidence practice (CDEP) Hmong Helping Hands Intervention.

Juan C. Garcia, PhD, LMFT, Program Director, Melanie Vang, Project Coordinator, and Wendy Xiong, Project Assistant, The Fresno Center, CRDP, provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the community defined evidence practice (CDEP) Hmong Helping Hands Intervention.

Juan C. Garcia, PhD, LMFT, President and CEO, Integral Community Solutions Institute, Professor Emeritus, California State University, Fresno; and Juan Carlos Gonzalez, PhD, Associate Professor, California State University, Fresno, continued the slide presentation and discussed the *Pláticas* and *Atención Plena* in Central California Schools Program: Understanding the Use of Alternative Methods to Help At-Risk Latino Students Succeed.

Artie Padilla, Executive Director, Every Neighborhood Partnership, and Chair of the Fresno County Trauma and Resilience Group, continued the slide presentation and discussed the Every Neighborhood Partnership (ENP) project.

Discussion

Ms. Parks stated she is excited about the trauma-informed resilience approach. She suggested a review of Dr. Nadine Burke's work and TED videos. She suggested

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incorporating implicit bias into trainings. She stated Dr. Kamala Harris is introducing an act in a bill regarding implicit bias, which requires that everyone in the health care field be trained in that area because of the disparities that exist among African American women.

Dr. Johnson asked where staff is with the data-sharing agreement. Ms. Pendleton stated staff is still working on it.

Co-Chair Kappagoda asked if the members of the panel have looked at school discipline policies and are working with the school districts to possibly adjust the districts' approach to working with students.

Dr. Garcia stated his team must work with school district administrators in order to implement projects. Their therapists and teachers have gotten jobs within the school districts to work from the inside to introduce concepts and change policy.

Co-Chair Kappagoda asked if the team working with the Hmong community uses a train-the-trainer model.

Dr. Xiong stated they are not currently using the train-the-trainer model but they have a long-term goal of incorporating it into a curriculum to be adaptive to other cultures in the future.

Public Comment

Co-Chair de Guia encouraged members of the public from Fresno and the surrounding areas who have projects or opportunities to highlight to share what they are currently working on.

Yang Hurr stated The Fresno Center has provided assistance to her and helped her decrease her depression. She asked for funding in the future to help staff the CRDP.

Vong Mouanoutoua, Councilmember for the city of Clovis, and Advisory Board member for the Hmong Helping Hands project, stated it is important to have programs that are neighborhood- and culturally-specific. There is already stigma in the term "mental health" in America, but it is even worse in other countries because mental health is never mentioned. The CRDP helps communities deal with mental health issues.

Amanda McAllister-Wallner stated the importance of the CRDP and community-defined practices. There is a need for more funding and for sustainable funding so that the CRDP does not become another five-year project. The speaker stated there are a number of LGBTQ projects in the CRDP, including two in the San Joaquin Valley that are doing great work to address LGBTQ health and mental health disparities – the San Joaquin Pride Center and the Bakersfield Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity. The speaker mentioned other good projects in the Fresno area such as #Out4MentalHealth, Common Space, MY LGBT PLUS, and the GSA Network.

Tamu Nolfo, PhD, Creative Strategy Consultant, California Arts Council, asked how Fresno is utilizing arts and culture to create or build on community resilience, such as art projects or mural projects combined with alley cleanup projects, or art-centered mentoring.

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Mr. Padilla stated ENP includes painting circles at Saturday Sports activities and in after-school mentoring programs. The youth use art as a way to talk about what is going on inside. He stated the artwork is shared with other schools, and murals that talk about the history of the neighborhood are painted in alleyways.

Dr. Xiong stated arts are important in the Hmong culture and cultural arts are incorporated into the resilience process. He stated the need to be more inclusive, to expand beyond each community, and to include arts from other communities. Arts from other areas and other cultures can be therapeutic.

Vong Mouanoutoua stated hip-hop is an international language that the youth connect with. Youth that have been hardened by their experiences can express love through hip-hop.

Dr. Garcia agreed and stated the youth also use poetry to explore their emotions, identify their feelings, and validate their life experiences.

Yolanda Randles, Director, West Fresno Family Resource Center, stated the center is working with youth ages 12 to 15 on a project called the Sweet Potato Project, where youth plant sweet potatoes on two acres of land, take a five-unit business course at Fresno State to learn about business, harvest the sweet potatoes, create a product using the sweet potatoes, and demonstrate their product during “pitch day” at Fresno State. The youth talk about their business plan, marketing strategy, product development, and profit. The Sweet Potato Project is a great learning opportunity.

Sheila James, Public Health Advisor, Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health for Region IX in San Francisco, met with Madera and Merced Health Departments yesterday to review their five-year, CDC-funded Racial and Ethnic Communities for Health (REACH) projects. The speaker stated the San Joaquin Valley is unique not only in terms of its needs but its assets. One of the health directors pointed out yesterday that chronic disease is underreported in the San Joaquin Valley because of the physician/provider shortage in the area. Reporting cannot take place if there are no physicians treating the people.

Valeria Rodriguez-Pedroza, California Health Collaborative (CHC), stated one of CHC’s projects is teaching high school students in Reedley, California, how to collect data and be spokespersons for their communities with the goal of taking the youth to council to represent their community and help pass the policy that would make it illegal to sell any flavored or methylated products within one thousand feet of any schools. The students are currently working on a mural.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE BUSINESS ITEMS

1:40 p.m. Lunch Break and Recognition of Outgoing Members for Advisory Committee Members

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Ms. Moore stated five OHE-AC members have completed their terms. She deferred to Chief Deputy Director Fanelli to present this agenda item.

Chief Deputy Director Fanelli presented certificates to Rye Baerg, Donnell Ewert, Guillermo Gonzalez, Lloyd Nadal, and Hermia Parks, in appreciation for their years of service.

2:10 p.m. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- February 14, 2019, Meeting Minutes
- March 29, 2019, OHE-AC Agenda Setting Subcommittee Minutes

Ms. Moore tabled this agenda item to the next OHE-AC meeting due to the lack of a quorum.

2:15 p.m. Advisory Committee Bylaws Update

Presenter:

Dana Moore, OHE Assistant Deputy Director/Acting Deputy Director

Presentation

Ms. Moore stated the purpose of this agenda item is to engage the OHE-AC members in a discussion about updating the bylaws, including discussion of the process and identification of a subcommittee to help update the bylaws. This will also include a discussion for recommendations from OHE staff and leadership of what needs to be addressed in the updated bylaws and the timeline and process for updating the bylaws.

Ms. Moore provided an overview, with a slide presentation, of the OHE-AC bylaws and OHE-AC membership recruitment update. She stated the Agenda Setting Subcommittee will be held in July or August for the September OHE-AC meeting and in October for the December OHE-AC meeting. She noted that the OHE-AC membership application has been put on SurveyMonkey for better accessibility. She asked OHE-AC members to email names of possible candidates.

Discussion

Co-Chair de Guia stated the Agenda Setting Subcommittee provides an opportunity to look at gaps and to consider how the OHE-AC can meet the needs of the community better. She asked for feedback from OHE-AC members who have been on the Committee from its inception or who have termed out on things that can be improved or changes that should be made to the bylaws.

Co-Chair Kappagoda suggested assigning an OHE-AC member or former OHE-AC member to be a buddy to each of the thirteen new members who will be recruited as a way to help staff.

Public Comment

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No members of the public addressed the Committee.

2:45 p.m. Public Comment Period/Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Ms. Moore read general public comments submitted by two members of the public:

- Valeria Rodriguez-Pedroza, California Health Collaborative, thanked the OHE-AC for creating a space for the community to have honest dialogue about the issues and social determinants of health experienced in the San Joaquin Valley. Without this type of dialogue, we cannot move forward.
- Yesenia Silva-Aguilar, Research Assistant, Central Valley Health Policy Institute, wrote that it is important to think of health equity and intentionally think of oral health inequities that communities of color, immigrants, and older adults experience due to the social determinants of health. Oral health impacts children's academic performance, older adults' quality of life, and working adults who conduct or are a part of the regional economy. Food security and professional development are also important.

3:00 p.m. Closing Comments and Adjournment

Ms. Moore thanked everyone for their participation and ended the proceeding at 2:37 p.m.