

**Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee  
Quarterly Meeting Planning Subcommittee Meeting**

**Teleconference Minutes (Approved)  
Wednesday, January 13, 2021**

Meeting ID: 858-8360-9517

**OHE-AC Members Participating:**

Jo-Ann Julien, Subcommittee Chair  
Califia Abwoon  
Jessica Buendia  
Sarah de Guia, OHE-AC Chair  
Lisa Folberg  
Ana Gonzalez Seda  
Nahla Kayali  
Michael Witte

**Members Absent:**

Kismet Baldwin  
Robin Carter  
Aaron Gardner  
Simran Kaur  
Patricia Lee  
Shireen Malekafzali  
Yvette McShan  
Vong Mouanoutoua

**State Officials/Staff:**

Lazaro Cardenas  
Noralee Cole  
Linda Helland  
Amanda Hooker  
Meredith Lee  
Peter Oh  
Sarah Roush  
Mark Starr  
Jason Tescher

**Speakers from the Public:**

Josephina Alvarado Mena  
Joel Baum  
Stacie Hiramoto  
Nina Moreno  
Nani Wilson

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**9:30 a.m. Convene Meeting and Welcome | Roll Call | Agenda Review**

Jo-Ann Julien, Subcommittee Chair, called the teleconference meeting of the Office of Health Equity (OHE) Advisory Committee (AC) Quarterly Meeting Planning Subcommittee meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and welcomed everyone. Roll call was taken; a quorum was achieved.

Amanda Hooker, Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator, Business Operations Unit (BOU), OHE, reviewed the meeting protocols.

Sarah de Guia, Chair of the OHE-AC, reviewed the meeting agenda.

**9:35 a.m. Debrief Fourth Quarter AC Meeting**

**Presenter:**

Sarah de Guia, Advisory Committee Chair

**Overview of 2021 Meeting Calendar**

AC Chair de Guia reviewed the OHE-AC meeting dates for 2021 and noted that the next Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Discuss December 1 & 2, 2020, meeting**

AC Chair de Guia reviewed the December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> AC meeting agenda and asked Subcommittee Members for their input on the structure and information provided in the meeting.

**Questions and Discussion**

Ms. Folberg stated breaking up into smaller groups or having more interaction between Members would help participants stay connected and engaged.

Ms. Kayali agreed that smaller groups and watching body language as they interact would make it more engaging.

Dr. Witte agreed. He stated it is trying to be unable to interact in a human way via Zoom. He stated spreading meetings out for fewer hours over multiple days can be more effective and allows participants to reflect more.

Ms. Gonzalez Seda stated the content was great but was overwhelming. She stated she lost Internet connection for the last three hours of the second meeting day. She suggested an opportunity for reflection would allow participants to come back refreshed and able to provide greater insights on what was previously discussed.

Subcommittee Chair Julien suggested ice-breaker exercises as a way to connect and engage. She stated she appreciated the updates but stated they were overwhelmingly impressive. She stated she regretted not providing positive feedback to the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) on how impressed she was. The great work being done by the CDPH and the OHE makes the job of the AC easier because they are already ahead of the curve in many areas.

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AC Chair de Guia stated she had envisioned the panel presentation as a discussion rather than a series of presentations. She suggested, as part of setting up the agendas, ensuring that participants will not be bombarded with PowerPoint presentations since this adds to virtual meeting fatigue. She stated she appreciated Lazaro Cardenas's presentation on structural racism because there was an opportunity for discussion.

AC Chair de Guia suggested one of the ways to increase interaction and engagement going forward is to shorten the presentations. It is a difficult balance between wanting to inform the AC and providing enough time for discussion. She suggested providing comprehensive materials and reports to AC Members for their review prior to meetings so they can be better prepared to provide advice and feedback at meetings. She also suggested working on only one or two questions or issues at each meeting.

Ms. Abwoon stated the December meetings and conversations were excellent.

Ms. Buendia suggested providing clear guidance on the products of the AC such as writing a resolution or a public discourse on a specific topic. She also suggested providing training on how state government functions and how to secure funding through the legislative process so AC Members better understand the toolkit available to them and to better provide advice and feedback to the OHE.

**Public Comment**

Joel Baum, Senior Director, Gender Spectrum, echoed Ms. Buendia's comment about the ability of this group to be nimble in their ability to discuss work and appreciated AC Chair de Guia's comments about adherence to process and procedure. The speaker requested that the AC write a letter to Dr. Tomas Aragon, the new Director of the CDPH, requesting that the work of the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP) be maintained and sustained.

Josephina Alvarado Mena, CEO, Safe Passages, echoed Joel Baum's comments.

Dr. Nina Moreno, Director of Research and Strategic Partnerships, Safe Passages, echoed Joel Baum's comments. The speaker invited everyone to the CRDP partners' virtual trainings.

Stacie Hiramoto, Director, Racial and Ethnic Mental Health Disparities Coalition (REMHDCO), echoed Joel Baum's comments.

Dr. Mark Starr, Deputy Director for Environmental Health, Acting Deputy Director for Health Equity, CDPH, agreed with the idea of sending a letter to the Dr. Aragon. He stated a meeting has been scheduled with the Dr. Aragon to discuss the CRDP stakeholders, other programs, and the OHE. He suggested having a discussion on what other advisory committees do to help answer questions about the role of the AC such as writing letters or preparing reports or statements about particular issues. He stated these types of things would be complementary to what can be done within the OHE.

Nani Wilson stated stigma reduction and addressing health equity is crucial. The speaker spoke in support of the CRDP.

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**10:00 a.m. Strategic Planning and Planning for First Quarter March Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Presenter:**

Sarah de Guia, AC Chair

- Define OHE-AC Goals for 2021
- Work Plan Calendar
- Planning for Q1 March Meeting Agenda

AC Chair de Guia asked the Subcommittee for input on how to be strategic in the work going forward and how that shows up in the agenda.

**Questions and Discussion**

Subcommittee Chair Julien suggested developing a Health Equity Action Plan to focus the AC agendas. She suggested dedicating a section of the Action Plan to climate change as it pertains to public health. She spoke in support of the CRDP partners and the great work they are doing in the community.

Ms. Buendia suggested reminding everyone about the networks and bodies of work each AC Member is connected to that can help advance the OHE goals so those resources can be leveraged in the work of the AC. She suggested putting together one-pagers to go out into the communities and to report back on the feedback received.

Jason Tescher, Chief, Gender Health Equity Unit (GHEU), OHE, stated the GHEU has put out a survey asking communities what they would like to see the GHEU do. He asked for guidance from the AC at the March meeting on moving forward and building long-term goals for gender equity issues.

AC Chair de Guia suggested proposing the following recommendations at the March AC meeting:

- Creating a Health Equity Action Plan as a Committee.
  - One of the action steps could be to write a letter to the Director regarding the sustainability of the CRDP.
- Assigning homework before the meeting asking AC Members to read the OHE Updates and to think or have initial discussions with their community groups to bring key issues to the table for the AC to take action on.
- Engage in the longer-term infrastructure development of the GHEU.

AC Chair de Guia asked if time should be taken during meetings for training for AC Members and the public such as learning about how other advisory committee groups work.

Subcommittee Chair Julien stated her preference is to do trainings outside of the AC meetings and to use the meeting time for engagement.

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AC Chair de Guia suggested having a small discussion on other advisory committee groups at a future meeting. She asked about continuing the conversation on structural racism.

Subcommittee Chair Julien stated continuing the conversation on structural racism would be a timely topic.

**Public Comment**

No members of the public addressed the Subcommittee.

**10:55 a.m. Closing Comments and Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.