

**Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Minutes (DRAFT Staff Notes)
May 13, 2015**

Sierra Health Foundation
1321 Garden Highway
Sacramento, CA 95833

OHE-AC Members Participating:

Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, MD, PhD
Paula Braveman, MD, MPH
Jeremy Cantor, MPH
Yvonna Cázares, BA
Rocco Cheng, PhD, Vice Chair
Sandi Gálvez, MSW, Chair
Álvaro Garza, MD, MPH
Cynthia Gómez, PhD
Pastor Willie Graham, M.S., M.Th.
General Jeff
Carrie Johnson, PhD
Dexter Louie, MD, JD, MPA
Teresa Ogan, MSW
José Oseguera, MPA
Hermia Parks, MA, RN, PHN
Diana Ramos, MD, MPH
Patricia Ryan, MPA
Linda Wheaton, MURP, AICP

Members Absent:

Delphine Brody
Aaron Fox, MPM
Neal Kohatsu, MD, MPH
Francis Lu, MD
Gail Newel, MD, MPH
Ellen Wu, MPH

State Officials/Staff:

Jahmal Miller, MHA, OHE Deputy Director
Dante Allen, MCM, Senior Communications
Officer, OHE
Karen Ben-Moshe, MPH, MPP, Sr.
Policy Associate, PHI, HiAP, OHE
Dulce Bustamante-Zamora, PhD, Research
Scientist II, OHE
Julia Caplan, MPP, MPH, Program Director,
PHI, HiAP, OHE
Marina Castillo-Augusto, MS, Staff Services
Manager I, CDEU, OHE
Lianne Dillon, MPH, Policy Associate, HiAP,
OHE
Carol Gomez, AGPA, OHE
Meredith Lee, Health Program Specialist I
Policy Unit, OHE
Robert Lipton, PhD, Research Scientist
Supervisor II, OHE
Kelsey Lyles, HiAP Associate I, PHI, OHE
Leah Myers, AGPA, OHE
Tamu Nolfo, PhD, Sr. Project Manager, CHPM,
OHE
Mallika Rajapaksa, Research Scientist IV, OHE
Edward Soto, Health Program Specialist I,
OHE

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Speakers from the Public:

Larry Adelman, California Newsreel (via teleconference)
Shené Bowie, CDPH (via teleconference)
Pete Lafollette
Lonnie Russell

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

Sandi Gálvez, MSW, Co-Chair of the Office of Health Equity (OHE) Advisory Committee (AC), called the OHE-AC meeting to order and welcomed everyone. She asked the OHE-AC members to introduce themselves. She provided a brief overview of the OHE-AC meeting agenda.

Motion: February 3, 2015, Meeting Minutes

Cynthia Gómez, PhD, made a motion, seconded by José Oseguera, MPA, to approve the February 3, 2015, Meeting Minutes.

(Motion made).

OHE-AC Member Aguilar-Gaxiola: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Braveman: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Cantor: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Cázares: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Cheng: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Gálvez: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Garza: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Gómez: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Graham: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Jeff: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Johnson: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Louie: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Ogan: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Oseguera: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Parks: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Ramos: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Ryan: Yes.

OHE-AC Member Wheaton: Abstain.

Vote: Motion approved by roll call vote, with one abstention.

Public Comment – Section 1.

(please reference attached public comment section)

Motion: Bylaws #1

Sandi Gálvez summarized the changes to the length and limits of the chair and vice chair terms made in the last AC meeting and approved by the director. No amendments were proposed, so the changes made in the last meeting stand.

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Recommendations from Karen Smith, MD, MPH, CDPH, the new director of public health:

- Stagger the chair and the vice chair elections to create overlap in the leadership
- Create an ad hoc committee to annually review the bylaws and bring recommendations to the AC

Challenges:

- AC Members transition out in May and new Members transition in, in September
- Chair and vice chair pool is limited by statute

Cynthia Gómez spoke in opposition to staggering the leadership elections. She stated the concern that the vice chair position would be vacant during the interim period if the vice chair is voted in as chair. She suggested extending the term of the current leadership by one year, since it is the first rotation and there is a significant loss of AC Members.

Hermia Parks, MA, RN, PHN, agreed that staggering the election could leave a void. She stated the importance of holding the election after new AC Members transition in.

Patricia Ryan, MPA, questioned the value of staggering the leadership elections and was concerned about a potential gap in leadership.

Dr. Gómez stated the importance of AC Members getting to know each other and learning who is amenable to a leadership role before an election is held. She suggested holding the elections next May to take effect the following September. This will give AC Members at least one year of experience before taking on a leadership position.

Diana Ramos, MD, MPH, asked if anyone else wanted to run for chair.

Dexter Louie, MD, JD, MPA, cautioned against making the bylaws so flexible that they do not mean anything. The bylaws need to be clear and adhered to.

Cynthia Gómez made a motion, seconded by Paula Braveman, MD, MPH, to extend the current chair and vice chair appointments for one year.

(Motion made).

OHE-AC Member Aguilar-Gaxiola: Approve.

OHE-AC Member Braveman: Approve.

OHE-AC Member Cantor: Approve.

OHE-AC Member Cázares: Abstain.

OHE-AC Member Cheng: Approve.

OHE-AC Member Gálvez: Approve.

OHE-AC Member Garza: Approve.

OHE-AC Member Gómez: Approve.

OHE-AC Member Graham: Approve.

OHE-AC Member Jeff: Approve.

OHE-AC Member Johnson: Approve.

OHE-AC Member Louie: Abstain.

OHE-AC Member Ogan: Approve.

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OHE-AC Member Oseguera: Approve.

OHE-AC Member Parks: Approve.

OHE-AC Member Ramos: Abstain.

OHE-AC Member Ryan: Approve.

OHE-AC Member Wheaton: Approve.

Vote: Motion approved by roll call vote, with three abstentions.

Public Comment – Section 2.

(please reference attached public comment section)

Motion: Bylaws #2

Sandi Gálvez stated Dr. Karen Smith's second recommendation was to annually review the bylaws with an ad hoc subcommittee to bring recommendations to the AC. She summarized the suggestions made by AC Members.

Dexter Louie made a motion, seconded by Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola, MD, PhD, that:

- The AC will establish an ongoing ad hoc subcommittee to review the bylaws, made up of two AC Members to be selected at the next AC meeting and annually thereafter in May
- Ideas for changes to the bylaws can be given to the ad hoc subcommittee throughout the year; the ad hoc subcommittee members will determine the changes to bring to the AC as recommendations
- Recommendations of the ad hoc subcommittee will be made at the May meeting; emergency issues in the bylaws can be addressed as they arise
- Carve out time for small group discussion during AC meetings for emerging issues with the bylaws so other AC Members can provide input

(Motion made).

OHE-AC Member Aguilar-Gaxiola: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Braveman: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Cantor: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Cázares: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Cheng: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Gálvez: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Garza: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Gómez: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Graham: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Jeff: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Johnson: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Louie: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Ogan: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Oseguera: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Parks: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Ramos: Aye.

OHE-AC Member Ryan: Aye.

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OHE-AC Member Wheaton: Aye.

Vote: Motion approved by roll call vote.

Public Comment – Section 3.

(please reference attached public comment section)

9:30 a.m. OHE Advisory Committee Election(s)

This agenda item was not discussed.

Public Comment – Section 4.

(please reference attached public comment section)

10:00 a.m. CDPH and OHE Updates

Jahmal Miller, MHA, the OHE Deputy Director, provided an overview of the major activities of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the OHE since the February 2015 AC meeting.

Staff transitions:

- Dr. Neil Maizlish retired
- Dante Allen, Senior Communications Officer, was hired
- Siek Run transitioned to the Department of Consumer Affairs

Portrait of Promise (PoP): The California Statewide Plan to Promote Health and Mental Health Equity:

- PoP includes a demographic analysis and a strategic plan
- PoP creates a unique opportunity to prioritize and advance an agenda to get at the root causes of and address many issues in health and mental health
- PoP is nearing completion and release after a full and thoughtful vetting process, and input from Advisory Committee members and other stakeholders to voice the urgency of the plan

California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP):

- Phase 1:
 - The CRDP strategic plan is nearing completion.
 - Strategic Planning Workgroups will focus on establishing infrastructure and sustainability of CRDP projects in vulnerable populations.
- Phase 2:
 - Six statewide evaluator and technical assistance solicitations and RFP, totaling \$60 million in Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funds, are in draft form and were put out for public comment prior to releasing them out for bid.

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- The CRDP focuses not on evidence-based practices, but on community-defined practices that are culturally congruent that will be rigorously evaluated to demonstrate that they work.

Health in All Policies (HiAP):

- OHE focus is to add additional internal resources and support for the HiAP Task Force work. Benefits will include:
 - Continued work on active transportation and future work on violence prevention
 - Begin the work of providing technical assistance, training development, and development for counties and other communities about health equity and HiAP, and how it can be integrated on the local level
- The OHE has robust, authentic stakeholder engagement across agencies, departments, and offices that is a model of commitment to the identification and allocation of resources to bring communities together.
- There is a need to build capacity and to strengthen and mobilize communities even more, because it empowers the OHE as a public servant to accomplish its work more efficiently and effectively.

Tamu Nolfo, PhD, the OHE Sr. Project Manager, reviewed the draft of Portrait of Promise and discussed the AC staggered membership terms.

- Portrait of Promise:
 - The plan is at the graphic designer; it will go through final copyediting and then will be released.
 - Phase 1 and 2 were changed to Stage 1 and 2 to avoid confusion with the CRDP Phases 1 and 2.
 - Stage 1 will go out for three years beginning in 2015, and Stage 2 will be for an additional two years.
- Staggered Membership Terms:
 - There are 6 open AC Member positions
 - There are 28 new membership applications that have been submitted
 - The announcement of the new AC Members will be decided by mid-August

Statute Partnerships:

Julia Caplan, MPP, MPH, the Program Director of the Public Health Institute (PHI), HiAP Task Force, provided an update on the HiAP Task Force.

- Violence Prevention:

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- There are many existing collaborative initiatives on this issue. The challenge is to add value without replicating work that has already been done and to support existing initiatives.
- Active transportation:
 - Walking and biking promotions are going strong.
 - The focus is on safety and equity.
 - Caltrans, a collaborative partner, has a new mission statement that includes promoting health and safety.
 - Caltrans has committed to double walking and transit use and to triple bike riding in the next five years. The HiAP Task Force is finding ways to support them and the communities that need these resources the most.
 - Caltrans is in a solicitation process, which funds work in local communities. The HiAP Task Force has been working with them to bring a health equity lens into that process, such as gathering input from health departments. The current round of grants will require applicants to consult with their local health departments to ensure that they are responding to the needs of the community.
- The American Public Health Association annual meeting has the theme Health in All Policies. The HiAP Task Force staff will give a number of presentations and convene a panel.

Dr. Nolfo provided an update on the California Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).

- The interagency agreement with the DHCS expires September 16th.
- The updated agreement will build in a broader collaboration.

Discussion:

Paula Braveman stated the concern that the AC has been underutilized. She suggested spending more time critiquing the plan and developing implementation ideas.

Rocco Cheng, PhD, Co-Chair of the OHE-AC asked about sustainability and if there is dedicated staffing to carry out the CRDP strategic plan after the four years are up.

Mr. Miller stated there are six funding sources to the OHE, and much of it comes from MHSA dollars. He stated staff has been using the legislative process with Budget Change Proposals and is working to diversify the funding sources to build up the infrastructure.

General Jeff stated the CRDP was an important project for the Los Angeles Skid Row, the homeless capital of America. The focus groups allowed the community to organize, gather, and add their collective voice to the overall conversation. The community is building on the momentum and has created the Skid Row Neighborhood Council.

Public Comment – Section 5.

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(please reference attached public comment section)

11:00 a.m. The Raising of America Documentary Series – Early Childhood and Family Supports

Larry Adelman, the Co-Director of the California Newsreel and Executive Producer of “The Raising of America,” stated “The Raising of America,” a five-part documentary series to be released at the end of June, grew directly out of the previous four-hour series, “Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick?” which explores the root causes of the alarming class and racial inequities in health, and the series, “Race: The Power of an Illusion.” He provided a summary of the process and results of making and releasing “The Raising of America” and showed an 11-minute trailer.

He stated the hope that “The Raising of America” will be a tool to help reframe the way Americans see early child health and development. He directed AC Members to a website to be launched July 1st, raisingofamerica.org. The documentary will expand the focus of attention from parents to the broader social and economic conditions that too often impede the efforts of parents, caregivers, and communities to provide the environment that children need. He encouraged the OHE to join the five hundred public engagement partners already signed up on the website.

Discussion:

Yvonna Cázares, BA, suggested partnering with the Latino Legislative Caucus, which meets at the Capitol to talk about these issues, Early Edge California, Grow America Stronger, First Five, and PTA. Tamu Nolfo stated the OHE is planning screenings to engage groups such as the ones Ms. Cázares mentioned. She asked AC Members to submit ideas for organizations to invite to the screenings to staff.

Ms. Cázares suggested tying the media campaign to a larger trend and offered her assistance. She asked if the series is available in other languages. Mr. Adelman stated the series is available in English and Spanish.

Jeremy Cantor, MPH, asked what the AC should be paying particular attention to in terms of how to improve conditions for all California children. Mr. Adelman suggested putting energy where there is already action, remembering that in different regions people have different priorities, and beginning with an aspirational vision of what the community can look like.

General Jeff asked if the homeless population is depicted in the series, because there are many elements that can be explored. He suggested that Mr. Adelman consider that population in the future. Mr. Adelman stated, although his films have not touched on the homeless population yet, there are other films on homelessness that do treat that issue.

Cynthia Gómez asked what was learned from “Unnatural Causes” about what was most successful and strategic in creating policy change. Mr. Adelman stated he learned that a film is not a substitute for action. Before screening the film, he suggested the OHE ask questions such as what is the goal, who is the audience, what is hoped to be achieved, how the screening can be a step to further engagement, and what are the short- and long-term objectives.

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Diana Ramos suggested screening the film with health care providers, because they oftentimes just see the patient in front of them and forget everything else that impacts health.

Hermia Parks stated England has policies not to work during the last month of pregnancy and to take up to six months' maternity leave. She stated it is a system and policy issue. She suggested focusing on screenings for the state Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Branch, public health nurses at the state and national levels, and the Association of Public Health Nurses.

Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola stated UC Davis Health System continues to use "Unnatural Causes" to raise awareness, create conversations, and, hopefully, lead to local action.

Public Comment – Section 6.

(please reference attached public comment section)

1:00 p.m. Small Group Session #1

Group 1: Healthy Community Data and Indicators Project

Group 2: OHE Communications Plan

Group 3: Housing and Health Equity

Group 4: Policy Priorities and Emerging Opportunities

Public Comment – Section 7.

(please reference attached public comment section)

1:45 p.m. Small Group Session #2

(Sessions repeat.)

Public Comment – Section 8.

(please reference attached public comment section)

2:40 p.m. Small Groups Report Out

Group 1: Healthy Community Data and Indicators Project

Dulce Bustamante-Zamora, PhD, OHE Research Scientist II, stated the Healthy Communities Data and Indicators Project provides indicators of what a healthy community is; it is tied to a definition of healthy communities that was created by the HiAP Task Force in 2010.

The group discussed what the project is, why this work should be done, how it relates to HiAP, what work has been done so far, and the next steps and challenges of the project.

She summarized the group's responses to what the next step should be to fulfill the vision of the project, considering the challenges of being short-staffed and having a website that does not provide dynamic data delivery for the indicators:

- Caution about partnering with other external groups and how they could influence the data and how it is presented
- Be open to working with other partners, because we are all partners for health

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- The SAMHSA website and how they are delivering information could be a good model to follow
- Indicators are a community investment; more data is available for some of the indicators, so include other types of strata, for example, income or poverty level
- Collaborate with Dr. Aguilar-Gaxiola's group on their review paper on community indicators taxonomy

Group 2: OHE Communications Plan

Dante Allen, MCM, OHE Senior Communications Officer, stated this group had an interactive exercise that looked at message creation, framing issues around health equity. They were presented with a number of foundational phrases and talked about what resonates with an audience and how to get to those things.

Communicating, especially complex issues like health equity, is an ongoing process that requires a committee to understand and get multiple perspectives on the messages that are being created. Mr. Allen offered himself as a resource, as Portrait of Promise moves toward release. He stated he is developing a number of materials to share.

Karen Ben-Moshe, MPH, MPP, Senior Policy Associate of the PHI, HiAP Task Force, reported on the findings of the exercise:

- It can be useful to have different messages for different audiences.
- It is important to think about opportunities and how to provide those opportunities for all in the messaging.
- It is important to use graphics in communications, and also to use accessible language with less jargon, ensuring that messages are relevant to the audience.
- It is important to be asset-based like Kaiser's Thrive campaign.
- When building on shared values, remember that not everyone shares the same values.

Group 3: Housing and Health Equity

Linda Wheaton, MURP, AICP, stated the OHE and the Housing and Community Development Department are collaborating to build a closer relationship. The group discussed the broad touch points of affordable housing, particularly in health:

- Safe and healthy housing
- Supportive housing with supportive services
- Common training or outreach for LEP populations and the CLAS standards
- Gentrification and involuntary displacement
- The need for education and outreach to engage communities
- Identify models for community engagement, such as HOPE SF
- Private sector investment is important in community engagement

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- Low income senior housing
- Whether or not there is enough technical assistance to implement the CLAS standards
- The need for a statewide coalition that builds on early childhood education issues and affordable housing, because they are interwoven

Group 4: Policy Priorities and Emerging Opportunities

Sandi Gálvez stated the group discussed the question: if health care services agency were to develop a proactive policy agenda for policy areas that could advance health equity, what would our recommendations for key policy areas be?

- The need for more affordable housing
- Implementing a universal pre-k, creating standards for preschool, and educating the workforce to provide a quality preschool education
- Doing more to help people who have recently gotten health care learn how to navigate the system, get clear guidelines of recommended preventative services, and learn what is covered
- Ensuring that the needs of immigrant and migrant populations are being met
- Looking into police violence
- Working in partnership to develop joint policies with other departments
- Collecting and sharing data on the social determinants of health and inequities
- Partnering with policy groups, such as the Health Officers Association of California and the California Conference of Local Health Officers

Discussion

General Jeff stated the importance of including behavioral health in all discussions.

Jahmal Miller suggested that the OHE hire an economics expert to begin positioning the objective economic case to the housing piece, or to better articulate the economic opportunity of going upstream.

Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola suggested focusing on certain issues in specific communities and striking a balance between what matters to people like us and what matters to communities themselves.

Cynthia Gómez stated the need to think upstream, changing the institutions that are the cause, as opposed to focusing on communities that are the result.

Dr. Aguilar-Gaxiola stated it doesn't have to be either/or. It is better to look both downstream and upstream. Policies, people, and governments change – the traction gained upstream may not be sustainable, but sustainable change comes from the communities.

Dr. Gómez agreed that change must come from both upstream and downstream, but there is considerable data that community-driven change does not produce the

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necessary results. With a focus on community, “them” versus “us” is reinforced. She stated the need to change the mindset to that of equality – both downstream and upstream need to change in order to produce the desired outcomes.

Dr. Aguilar-Gaxiola agreed that language has power and the mindset needs to change.

Álvaro Garza, MD, MPH, stated the focus needs to be upstream.

Carrie Johnson, PhD, stated communities have data and community-defined practices that work for them, but they need support upstream to collect that data.

Patricia Ryan stated, as a representative democracy, the policy level does not work unless there is a groundswell of support at the community level.

Co-Chair Gálvez agreed that, in addition to providing good, culturally competent, linguistically appropriate services, there needs to be a focus at the individual level to help build the capacity of people to be more civically engaged, because that reinforces policy change.

Co-Chair Gálvez asked what the impetus was behind today’s small group discussions. Tamu Nolfo stated the information will help staff continue to build out the implementation plan:

- Group 1: The information will help staff with assessment and capacity building for implementation of this project.
- Group 2: The information will help staff understand how to message the work being done, why it is important, and how people can get involved.
- Group 3: The information will help staff with assessment, understanding the need and possibilities, and also how to change and build the infrastructure within state government.
- Group 4: The information will help staff understand research priorities and who to collaborate with.

Public Comment – Section 9.

(please reference attached public comment section)

3:30 p.m. Planning for the September 29, 2015, Advisory Committee Meeting

Sandi Gálvez asked for suggestions for topics or ideas about the format for the September meeting.

Cynthia Gómez suggested a discussion on the activities to engage in and the role of the AC during the rollout of the plan. Tamu Nolfo stated Mr. Allen will ensure Committee Members have materials, talking points, and PowerPoints necessary to assist with the rollout before September.

General Jeff suggested an update on the initial feedback and impacts to the release of the report.

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Paula Braveman requested that no presentations be given at meetings unless they have a specific purpose to generate discussion that will yield recommendations from the AC.

Hermia Parks agreed with General Jeff and Dr. Braveman. She suggested a presentation from Mr. Allen about the ideas and tools that will assist with moving the plan forward.

Dr. Gómez asked how to best integrate the significant number of new AC Members to ensure they will not feel lost, because September will be the first meeting post-release and will necessitate in-depth discussions. She suggested a pre-meeting orientation for the new AC Members so they will be up-to-date and able to engage in a productive way at their first meeting.

Álvaro Garza suggested a presentation on the perspectives of other state departments for whom the plan is aimed – their concerns, challenges, and recommendations.

Jeremy Cantor suggested a briefing on the findings from today's small group discussion.

Yvonna Cázares suggested an exercise to map out the organizations AC Members have relationships and connections with and determining who each Member will reach out to about the rollout of the plan.

Sergio Aguilar-Gaxiola suggested discussing action plans, how to implement and disseminate the strategic plan, and how AC Members can be utilized. Jahmal Miller requested representation from the AC during briefings on the rollout of the plan with the Legislature, caucuses, and other entities, and participation in workforce development. He stated staff will be in contact with Members.

Álvaro Garza requested that staff send AC Members the draft meeting agendas at least 20 days before the meetings, as stated in the bylaws.

Public Comment – Section 10.

(please reference attached public comment section)

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

Public Comment – Section 11.

(please reference attached public comment section)

4:00 p.m. Closing Comments and Adjournment

General Jeff invited AC Members to visit Skid Row.

Jahmal Miller presented Certificates of Appreciation from the California Department of Public Health and the Office of Health Equity to General Jeff Page, Patricia Ryan, Teresa Ogan, Ellen Wu, and Delphine Brody in appreciation of their leadership in serving as Members of the OHE-AC for the past two years.

Sandi Gálvez thanked everyone for participating and ended the proceeding.