

**Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee Meeting
Public Comment Section
December 8-9, 2015**

Day 1: December 8, 2015

**September 29, 2015, Meeting Minutes
*Public Comment – Section 1.***

PETE LAFOLLETTE

Thank you and good morning. I always feel good and optimistic when I come to these meetings. In these days, I need about as much of that feeling as I can get.

If you Facebook Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, and that's hopefully a broad and growing movement, the numbers are 355 mass shootings by San Bernardino. So, that's 355 and it's not even the end of the year. So, San Bernardino, Paris, Columbine, Newton, Sandy Hook, Colorado Springs, Medford, Isle Vista, Springfield, Oregon, where I came from in high school - I didn't have to even look up a database and that's -- that's the list that I came up with.

We're facing a general crisis of spirit, I think, in the human race. Shadows have seemed to enter into people's minds and hearts. I really think it's important at this time, just like the work that you're doing here, to look at the good wherever possible and amplify that and to do our small part to the larger whole in these desperate times we seem to be in.

So, with that, thank you again for coming.

**9:50 a.m. CDPH and OHE Updates
*Public Comment – Section 2.***

PETE LAFOLLETTE

The widespread violence that we're seeing and it's growing. I hope sometime, in the next couple of days, you'll revisit the violence prevention item that was talked about at the last minute.

This Committee and just people in general should act on a conviction that -- that the solution to -- to racial problems, to police violence, to religious variances, many other things -- problems in mental illness in America are far more important than the preservation of any tradition, institution, procedure, alignment, or professional responsibility.

Under institutional violence, I would include the NRA on that and the Second Amendment right to bear arms. That's -- it's -- it's just -- it's reached insane proportions.

**Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee Meeting
Public Comment Section
December 8-9, 2015**

The disparities in mental health that Jahmal was -- was speaking about earlier, "Perhaps it is easy," says Martin Luther King, "for those who have never felt the stinging darts of segregation to say, 'Wait.' [...] Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will. Lukewarm acceptance is much more bewildering than outright rejection."

No one can be too mentally ill, can be too poor, too disenfranchised, too much in flight as -- as an immigrant, not to live a dignified and meaningful life in the community of -- and setting of their choice.

Thanks.

**3:40 p.m. Small Groups Report Out
Public Comment – Section 3.**

PETE LAFOLLETTE

Thanks. Being a lifelong environmentalist, I just felt like I wanted to pass this on to you for information.

We can't -- can't really politically maneuver our way out of climate change and its adverse effects. If you take a look on the website at TakePart, two billion people face water shortages as snowpack declines.

That speaks, I think, mainly in Asia because of the Himalayas, but not to discount the fact that California and the San Joaquin Valley is so dependent upon the Sierras, and each year, of course, we're measuring less and less of a snowpack.

So, I thank you for your continued attention to this really very real problem.

Day 2: December 9, 2015

**9:30 a.m. Early Input into the Demographic Report of 2017
Public Comment – Section 4.**

PETE LAFOLLETTE

Thanks for the time. I'll try to be real brief. Related to the substance abuse, this is a big trend coming out of Washington, D.C., to reclassify addictions, recognizing that people use substance because they're self-medicating and they have dual diagnosis. So, substance use is a health issue and -- and it's not a justice issue.

**Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee Meeting
Public Comment Section
December 8-9, 2015**

Thousands of lives and billions of dollars can potentially be saved and redirected, reducing cycles of relapse and incarceration by the reclassification of substance. Many states, even the red ones, are moving towards keeping people out of jail because, for one, it's usually expensive and, in the recent past, we've spent more on prisons than on the educational system.

The recent Affordable Care Act means more people can afford treatment through insurance or the public sector and it -- that saves lives by reducing prison overcrowding and redirecting mental health and substance use treatment. So, this is a broad shift we're seeing, and it sure feels like one for the better.

Thanks.

10:50 a.m. Taking a Deeper Dive into the Asian Pacific Islander Data: The Status of Health and Mental Health Disparities in the Cambodian Community

Public Comment – Section 5.

(No public comment)

1:00 p.m. How the State is Aligning with Health Equity - Part 2

Public Comment – Section 6.

(No public comment)

2:30 p.m. Planning for the February Advisory Committee Meeting

Public Comment – Section 7.

(No public comment)

4:50 p.m. Debrief | Public Comment Period | Public Comment for Items Not on the Agenda

Public Comment – Section 8.

PETE LAFOLLETTE

I just -- I wanted to make sure that you still give mental health its -- its proper due. One in five persons has a mental health diagnosis in society, and more than fifty percent of the population live in urban settings, which results in large amounts of untreated and unserved, so the idea of moving beyond the Mental Health Services Act. The Mental Health Services Act is inadequate for it.

And, briefly, I wanted to apologize and somewhat beg for mercy from the Asian Pacific Island group. My country exports terrorism. It started in my childhood with Viet Nam, moved to Panama, the first Gulf War, the second Gulf War, and now unending War on Terrorism.

**Office of Health Equity Advisory Committee Meeting
Public Comment Section
December 8-9, 2015**

It's just something -- we've become a very violent society and it's hard to know what to do. But I believe in my heart and my spirit, especially at this time of year, I wanted to mention a person and a symbol came to earth, came here from somewhere else and he told of peace on earth and good will towards mankind. And those sentiments, not only in the darkest part of the year, but during a dark time of the human soul, and these times we're living in is sorely needed.

So, thanks for your time.